

Contents

	<i>page</i>		
Foreword	2	Little Nellie of Holy God	115
Pastoral Messages	3	How much in that in Old Money?.....	117
Castleconnell/Ahane/Montpelier	7	Hands by Betty Tuohy	118
From the files of the Limerick Leader ...	9	Hands by Kay Hickey	119
Memories of a soldier	14	The Mountshannon Catalogue 1888 ..	121
Joe Curtin, Stradbally	18	Jimmy Butler Coffey.....	126
Sunk	19	A Bob's Worth	131
Paddy Lee	26	Lovely Castleconnell.....	133
Ahane GAA Club - a brief history	29	Paddy O'Driscoll	135
Ordination of Fr. Ger Fitzgerald.....	33	The Glories of Ahane	136
St. Patrick's Day, 2011.....	40	Castleconnell Historical Society Notes	
Pictorial 2011.....	45	137
O'Brien's Bridge Community Group	51	Old Time Gaels of East Limerick	139
Elaine.....	52	The Historical/Singing River Walk....	146
Castleconnell Scouts.....	55	Liam Minihan	147
Mick Mackey book launch	56	All Saints Church.....	150
Fr. James Minogue - Diamond Jubilee		Castleconnell Tidy Towns	151
Celebrations	59	Castleconnell Boat Club	154
Sporting Pictures	64	For Josephine	156
Mid West Vocal Academy Community		Wedding Bells	157
Choir	69	Welcome New Babies	158
Mrs. Hartigan.....	70	These We Remember	161
Old Heritage Anchor	72	Funeral Customs	163
Ahane Underage Camogie.....	74	Name Plate	164
Ahane Ladies Gaelic Football Club	78	Pat Dempsey	165
Killeenagarraff Cemetery Mass.....	80	Down Memory Lane	167
Castleconnell Youth Club.....	83	Castleconnell in the 1940s	177
Lisnagry National School	87	Presentation Sister Brigid	
Care of the Aged	91	O'Shaughnessy	179
Ahane National School	93	The story of the missing sausage.....	181
The Lost Errina	99	Castleconnell National School	185
Niall Benedict Doyle.....	102	A poem for Nibbler.....	189
Worthies of Thomond	105	European Bronze for Sarah Lavin	190
The Park Bench	107	Acknowledgements	190
Saving the Hay	109	List of Advertisers	191
Met Eireann Climatological Service in			
Castleconnell	113		

Foreword

Welcome to our 15th Edition of An Caisleán and we hope you enjoy the contents. As always, we have endeavoured to bring you a selection of articles, poems, photographs and features which we hope will be of interest to those of you living in the Parish and to those in faraway places who especially seem to enjoy exploring their past and indeed present through the pages of our Parish Journal, every year.

It has been a particularly special year in the history of our parish with two ordinations to the priesthood, Fr. Ger Fitzgerald, who was ordained in his own St. Joseph's Church and Fr. Ger Jones from O'Brien's Bridge, who was ordained in Killaloe. Added to that at the other end of the spectrum was the Diamond Jubilee of Fr. James Minogue, who celebrated his sixty years in the priesthood in July. We join with all the community in sending them our heartfelt congratulations and hope they enjoy continued good health in order to carry on their priestly duties .

We also include an article on 'The Emergency' sourced and written by Joan O Siochru on a soldier, Denis Geary, who came here with the 12th battalion in 1940. He speaks with much affection for the area and its people of the time. Coincidentally, an elderly lady born and raised in the Parish, who wishes to remain nameless, also recounts her memories of Castleconnell during the war years. We have also included a short story entitled 'Sunk' from award winning writer, Pat O'Connor, which we think you will enjoy. As well, there are submissions from our three schools, many of the youth and sporting organisations and lots more to entertain you. We hope you find something of interest to you.

We would like to thank our advertisers, contributors and all those of you who generously give of your time to make the publication a success and of course the shops and local businesses who sell the journal on our behalf.

Lastly, a big thank you to all who buy An Caisleán and who take the trouble to send it to family and friends overseas. We know from our correspondence with Castleconnell people living away from the Parish of its importance to them.

All proceeds of An Caisleán go to local charities. Last year, donations were made to Care of the Aged, Tidy Towns Committee, Castleconnell Youth Club and All Saint's Church Restoration Fund.

**EDITORIAL COMMITTEE: Steve Reidy, Pat Skehan,
Joan O Siochru, Mary Dillon, Anne Berkery.**

An Caisleán - The Castleconnell, Ahane, Montpellier Annual 2010

Pastoral Messages

From Fr. Ger Fitzgerald, Castleconnell and the Rev. Stephen White, Dean of Killaloe and Rector of All Saints Church, Stradbally.

Fr. Ger's Address



Sitting down to write this article I am reminded of the old saying which explains that *“the more things change, the more they stay the same.”* The last time I had the honour of writing an article for *An Caisleán* was three years ago. I wrote the article on the eve of beginning my second divine year in St. Patrick's College. That year of course would be a year with a difference as it would be spent in the parish of Mullingar, gaining pastoral experience in a parish context. I spoke of the journey of a thousand miles and in many ways, as I faced into the unknown in a parish that was not my own I was drawn

to the Minnie Haskins poem *“God Knows”* wherein the author describes herself as putting her hand into the hand of God and allowing Him to guide her through the darkness of the unknown. Three years later, a lot has changed, but I am struck by how much they have stayed the same!

Franklin D. Roosevelt once described December 7th, 1941 as a day that *“... will live in infamy.”* However, there is another date that shall also live in infamy, or at least in my memory anyway. That day was June 19th, 2011, the date of my ordination to the priesthood in St. Joseph's Church, Castleconnell, Co. Limerick, by the bishop of Killaloe, Kieran O'Reilly. On that day I was honoured and privileged to share the most special moment of my life with friends and family from all parts of the country and indeed all parts of the world as people travelled from as far away as London to be there. It was the end of a journey of a thousand miles through seminary formation and a day that will always be special to me. However, the ordination is one thing, but everything that goes on behind the scenes is equally important. With that in mind, I wish to now publically thank Eleanor and the choir for all their hard work. They were fantastic on the day and also on the occasion of my first Mass. Their tireless work proved

St. Augustine right. When you sing, you really do pray twice, at least in Castleconnell anyway. A very special thank you must go to my wonderful ordination committee. Without them, there would have been no meal, no tea afterwards (not that I got any tea anyway!) and no decorations in the church. I believe they deserve to be mentioned by name as their work and dedication to the day made everything run smoothly. They were: Eila Moloney, Eileen and Julie McCabe, Pauline Bradshaw, Margaret Byrnes and Frances Clifford. Ladies, I will be forever grateful and don't forget, the first anniversary mass is only 34 weeks away...we'd better get cracking!! Special thank you's must also go to two very important people who supported me throughout my formation journey. Fr. Brendan Kyne and Dean Stephen White. Their inspiration and help was of utmost importance in the tough seminary years and I will always be grateful to them. I must also mention Fr. Minogue. His advice and pastoral care will always keep me in good stead and I was delighted to be a part of his own celebration of 60 years as a priest. My own 60th will be in 2071 so put it in the diaries!! Lastly, and most importantly to my dad; the man without whom I would not be writing this at all and as I said at my speech in the Kilmurry, the man I love with all my heart. If I told you what he had done over the years, you wouldn't believe me, but suffice it to say, no words here would be enough to thank him. If you see him, ask him about the evening we went to Maynooth in the snows!!!

And so, here we go again. As I said at the start the more things change the more they stay the same and once again as I write another article for An Caisleán I find myself once more facing into the unknown in a parish that is not my own. I have taken up my posting in Ennis parish, since July 30th. It is a very big parish, but one that has been very welcoming and understanding. The people are wonderful and there is lots to do. I have, in my short time there, encountered the wide gamut of experiences which constitute the unpredictable life of a priest. Late night hospital call outs, weddings, baptisms, funerals, communion and confirmation enrolments and of course first Friday calls. The only thing I can say is that the life of a priest is like no other life on the planet. Yes of course it is challenging in many ways and there is much to reflect on and consider but, for all the difficulty, our Eucharistic existence wherein we minister with the people of our parish and are with them at the most special moments of their lives, priesthood is, as Arthur Middleton tells us “...*not a convenient, historically conditioned form of Church organisation, but is rooted in the Incarnation, in the priesthood and mission of Christ himself.*” Priesthood is a different beginning every day of the week, a new job to do, new people

to meet and new adventures to be had. No two days are ever the same and there is always another challenge waiting just around the corner.

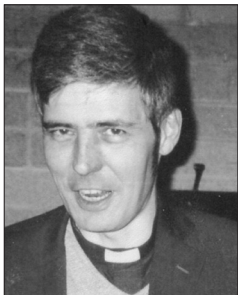
As I conclude my reflections I am once again drawn back to the image of my journey of a thousand miles, which in many ways is now about to begin all over again. The more things change, the more they stay the same. I once again ask you to support me with your prayers and once more I thank you all, from the bottom of my heart.

Let me finish with that Minnie Haskins poem with which I began. It is truly fitting as I face into priesthood and we all face into challenging times. Let us perhaps draw inspiration from these words, used by King George VI in 1939 when Europe stood on the brink of war.

*"I said to the man who stood at the Gate of the Year,
'Give me a light that I may tread safely into the unknown.'
And he replied,
'Go out into the darkness, and put your hand into the Hand of God.
That shall be better than light, and safer than a known way."*

P.S. Thank you to everyone who bought my recent publication about Castleconnell. I never expected it to go so well, so thank you for making it a success. Maybe, just maybe, there will be more to come!

Pastoral Article for An Caisleán 2011



I am writing this article as summer begins to shade almost imperceptibly into autumn, and by the time it appears in *An Caisleán* in, I believe November, we shall be drawing to the close of a year which seems to have been remarkable for the sheer volume of human trauma and anguish which has been inflicted on so many nations great and small. There has been the Japanese earthquake and tsunami, huge floods in China and Brazil, devastating storms in the USA, uprising and repression in much of the middle east,

renewed famine in the Horn of Africa, random violence in Norway, and so the list could go on and on.

Admittedly, we also have our own troubles at home. No-one is finding the present economic climate easy. All of us are having to retrench. All of us are significantly less well off than we were two or three years ago, and many in our communities have lost, or are afraid of losing jobs and even houses.

In the light of this, I simply wish to remind all our readers of two things, and as I do so I am aware that it is often said that clergy preach to themselves and I freely acknowledge that this is the case here, but I hope that as I remind myself of these two things, others may find that they resonate with them also.

First then, we have our problems and they are very real, but, Thank God, none of us lives in fear of war, rebellion, repression, drought, earthquake, famine and so on. Whatever our difficulties let us, both in church and outside it, never forget to give thanks for the huge good fortune which we enjoy compared to the vast bulk of the world's population.

Secondly, let the gathered communities of Castleconnell, Ahane and Montpelier never forget to look both inward and outward in the service of one another and the world. May we ever be supportive of our neighbours whenever they may be anxious or in difficulty, and may we together continue to look outward and continue this island's magnificent record of caring for those who have no possessions, no food, no safety, no health or no hope.

From a year of uncertainty we at least can look forward in the hope, indeed the knowledge that God does not abandon his people and also commands them to care for one another in his name. With him, we embark on the next year with courage and with renewed commitment to one another and to his world.

May God bless you all in the year to come,

Stephen R. White.

Castleconnell/Ahane/Montpelier

Castleconnell is known as the “Island Parish” in the diocese of Killaloe. It is bordered on one side by the river Shannon and on the other sides by the diocese of Limerick and the arch diocese of Cashel. It is the only part of Co. Limerick in the Clare diocese of Killaloe. The reason for this dates from the twelfth century. The O’Briens, a powerful Dal Cas family at the time, insisted that Castleconnell should remain in the Killaloe diocese as they had built a fortress at Castleconnell, a fortress they were keen to hang on to.

Castleconnell’s name in Irish is Caisleán Ui gConnaing, which actually means Gunning’s castle. This was because the Dail Cais Gunning family built the riverside castle over a thousand years ago, the name was then anglicised to Castleconnell by which the village and parish are still known as today.

The Edwardian village with its triangular street pattern is dominated by the Gothic structure of Saint Joseph’s Catholic Church. A mass house had been situated not far from the centre of the village at Chapel Hill but by the 1840’s it was in a neglected and dilapidated condition. The parish priest of the time was a Macroom man by the name of Fr. Pat Hennessy. He took on the mammoth task of building a new church a mere ten years after the Great Famine. It was a massive undertaking but he did it with indomitable zeal and the new church was consecrated on the 9th of August, 1863. The new church now clear of scaffolding and trappings was unveiled in all its majestic splendour. When first perceived, it was a most impressive sight, towering over the village scene, dwarfing even the most imposing buildings and business houses around it. With its flawless stonework, its beautifully executed Gothic arches and the sheerness of the high pitched slated roof – this splendid edifice, strong in stone and tasteful in design, was to be a symbol of the faith of a people. It was a fitting dwelling for their God and a great manifestation of faith.

At the end of the 17th Century, the medieval names of Stradbally and Killeenagariffe were superseded by the parish names of Castleconnell and Ahane.

Ahane

In Killeenagariffe are the ruins of a church in which Mass was said for the last time in 1648. From 1648 until 1758, Mass was said on the mass rock which today can be found at the Richardson farm at Ardvarna. A Mass house was then built inside the ditch in the town land of Ahane.

Two fields make up the town land of Ahane and they are known as glebe land.

The Mass house was a mud and wattle structure with a thatched roof and the priest had often to appeal to the faithful to bring scallops to repair the roof. It served the faithful until a new church was built nearby at Biddyford. It was commenced by Father Crotty PP in 1838 but became a victim of the night of the Big Wind in February 1839 when half the roof was blown away. The stone arching at the front entrance came from the ruins of Quin Abbey in Co. Clare. Three Ahane men went with horses and carts, stayed overnight and returned the next day with the makings of the arch. It was dedicated to Saint Patrick and many improvements and renovations have been carried out during the last 170 years. Thomas Nevin of Mountshannon House donated the Stations of the Cross. These stations, carved from wood were originally intended for a church in Germany. Nevin purchased them in New York in 1906 and donated them to the church in Ahane to remember his daughter who had died giving birth to a baby.

Ahane does not feature on any roadmap, but whenever hurling is spoken of, the very name Ahane will be always synonymous with great wielders of the camán.

Montpelier

Through time, Montpelier has had its focal points, the school, the bridge, the village green, the river and its fairs. But for many years, it lacked a church. It's said that a village without a steeple is incomplete and since time immemorial Montpelier people had made the three mile trek to Mass in Castleconnell, whether it be the Missions, Christmas Day or Sunday. The old people still remember the women of Montpelier leaving in the frosty darkness of a Christmas morning to walk to Castleconnell for a dawn mass and return home still fasting to prepare the Christmas dinner.

The advent of the motor car and the hackney car eased the burden in the 1950's and for many, the trudge was over and the road grew shorter by the year. In the later 1980's, Bishop Harty approved the provision of a new oratory on the site of the old national school. It was opened and dedicated to St. Theresa in May, 1989. The village may still not have its steeple but it does have a treasured centrepiece in its oratory.

From the Files of the Limerick Leader 1911

January 1911

Dr George Meylan, Director of Physical Culture at Columbia University USA has published the results of studies he has made to determine the effects of smoking tobacco on university students. His summary, acquired after two years observation of 115 smokers and 108 non-smokers, shows that smokers are better athletes and non-smokers are better students. Dr. Meylan says his studies were not undertaken with the object of defending the use of tobacco, but to ascertain the effects of tobacco on his students.

Home Hints

The juice of half a lemon in a cup of black coffee without sugar is a cure for a sick headache.

A very good way to prevent an iron from sticking to starched things is to tie up a piece of bees wax in a flannel and rub on the iron before using.

Curiosities

A stone house is not as durable as one of brick. A brick house well-constructed will outlast one built of granite.

There are always 40,000 tramps in Great Britain. In the winter time, the number doubles.

February

Impure Blood and the Cause (Advertisement)

There's a reason for everything and when the blood is in an impure condition as it usually is at this time of year, pimples, blotches, blackheads, redness and other skin disfigurements make their appearance. The reason for this is that after the long winter when people are unable or unwilling to be out and about as usual, the blood accumulates a good deal of waste material which now, at the beginning of spring it endeavours to throw off, with the above results. LAIRS BITTER ORANGE BLOOD PURIFIER is a wholly vegetable product which purifies the blood and helps to create health and energy where before was debility and lassitude.

Rugby Football

Ireland played the first of her 1911 International contests at Landsdowne Road, Dublin on Saturday defeating England by 1 try to nil, The Irishmen

played a great game and deserved their victory. Tom Halpin, the only Limerick man on the Irish 15 played the game of his life and his performance was fully in keeping with his club name of “Dasher”.

March

Obituary

Mrs. M Tierney, Bog Road, Castleconnell.

The remains of the above highly esteemed and much regretted lady were conveyed to the Catholic Church, Castleconnell where prayers were recited by a large group of sympathisers, for the repose of her soul. Representatives attended from Clare, Limerick City, Newport, Killaloe, Ballinahinch, Annacotty etc., to pay their last respects to this good soul, who during the long span of her life in Castleconnell performed numerous charitable turns and kind offices to many an afflicted family in the Parish. May her soul enjoy the rewards such good work merits.

April

GAA Notes

An immense concourse of spectators assembled at the Market's Enclosure on Sunday last to witness what proved to be one of the finest hurling matches seen for a long time in Limerick. The Castleconnell “pick” was an excellent one, and they beat the Thurles men all over the ground. Congratulations to Castleconnell and their popular captain “Tyler” Mackey on the judicious selection they made. The winners will now meet Cork in the final for the Cup.

General Rules for Female Health

There must be plenty of good nourishing food, which must not be eaten hurriedly. There must be enough occupation to keep a woman's mind and hands moderately employed and there must be a sufficiency of healthful amusement to keep her from growing dull and listless. She must have plenty of sunlight, fresh air and outdoor exercise. Her clothing must not be tight yet it should fit neatly and be well balanced. Exhausting emotions must be avoided. She must not study too much. From fourteen to seventeen years of age is the period of all others when girls who aspire to being healthy women should not be required to exhaust their vitality by hard study.

May 1st 1911

(From our correspondent in Glin)

The weather in this district is as severe as it was in mid-winter. Snow fell on

the hilly country between here and Newcastlewest today and fierce showers of sleet and hail from the North West have been experienced in the town and neighbourhood.

Robbery in Castleconnell

Poor Box Rifled

A daring robbery occurred last night in the Parish Church Castleconnell where the poor box was broken open and a sum of money stolen. A young lady who was praying in the church at the time saw a man, whom she believed to be a tramp. She reported the robbery to the clerk of the church. The police are making enquiries into the matter.

June

Less Feast Days

The Pope has issued a very important Motu Proprio, in which he orders the diminution of feast days. The object of Pius X is a very practical one. "Modern Life", so runs the papal document is becoming daily more expensive, consequently those who have to work for their living find the constant interruptions caused by the too numerous Saints days a hindrance to their labour. Accordingly, the pope orders that the feasts of St. Joseph, the nativity of St. John the Baptist and of corpus domini should be celebrated on the following Sunday of the week on which they fall.

Limerick v's Cork

The final of the Brussels tournament was brought to a successful conclusion yesterday when Limerick (Castleconnell) crossed camán's with Cork (Dungourney). Cork were the winners with 2 goals, 2 points Limerick, 1 goal, 1 point.

The Limerick team were: J Ryan, P Vaughan, P Herbert, J Mackey (Captain), J Carroll, B O'Connor, C Scanlan, E Clancy, J Clancy, M Harrington, S Gleeson (Fedamore), J Madden, M Madden, T Mangan, M Feely (Croom), T Hayes, P Flaherty (Rathkeale).

Castleconnell Hurling Club

At a meeting of the Castleconnell Hurling Club last night, Mr. J. Carroll Presiding, the following resolution was passed unanimously "That we the Gaels of Castleconnell hereby pledge our support to that sterling Gael and founder of our club Mr. T. Coffey at the forthcoming district council election for the division of Castleconnell and that we call upon the elections to return him at the top of the poll as we believe him to be energetic, thoroughly competent, and in every way qualified to discharge the duties of

a district councillor”.

July

Excursions from Limerick

Large numbers of the city folk availed themselves of the different excursions run by GSEW railway yesterday. Goodly companies travelled to Killarney, Ballybunion, Adare and Castleconnell and the city was practically deserted. The weather was fine and warm but a fairly strong wind helped to cool the high temperatures experienced during the past week.

August

Married in Irish

Castleconnell Exile Weds (A thoroughly Gaelic Wedding)

The New York Evening World Reports – A wedding thoroughly Gaelic in every detail was that of Seamus O’Lee and Ms. Sheila O’Connor. It was the first thoroughly conducted Gaelic wedding in America. The Bridegroom, a native of Castleconnell, Co. Limerick and his Brother, George were dressed in the Gaelic costume of the tenth century comprising Kilt, Cloak, Hat with Eagle Feather, Low Shoes and Stockings, all of which have been adopted by the Scottish Clans in some form or other. The Bride, a native of Kenmare, Co. Kerry and her sister, Ms. Maura O’Connor were attired in Irish Lace with Mantles caught up by silver replicas of the famous brooch of Tara. The marriage service was in the old Gaelic tongue and the music was in the traditional character of the old Gaelic hymns. As a guest said, “you could almost see the shamrocks growing through the floor of the church, it was so Irish”.

September

Charge of attempted suicide case at Castleconnell Petty Sessions

At the Castleconnell Petty Sessions on Monday before Mr. O’Vansittart and Colonel Massey Westropp, a local man was charged with having attempted to commit suicide on the 9th. The Magistrate, having heard the evidence of the police bound the defendant to the peace himself in £5 and two sureties of £2 10s each.

October

Obituary

Death of Miss Bugler, Annacotty.

It is with feelings of deep regret, we announce the death of Ms. Gretta Bugler, daughter of Mr. H. Bugler, Annacotty. The deceased young lady, not

long out of her teens, was extremely popular with everybody. She had been ailing for some time, but despite the best medical skill, she passed away peacefully in the presence of her family yesterday. To her bereaved relatives, we offer our sincere condolences, in their sorrow.

An experiment carried out by the New York Times shows that a telegram of nine words went around the globe in exactly 16½ minutes. Nice speed that.

November

GAA Munster Hurling Championship Semi Final

Before a fairly large crowd of spectators, the Semi-Final of the Munster Hurling Championship was decided at Tipperary yesterday. The morning was very wild and wet, but the weather conditions prevailing during the match were favourable.

Results: Limerick 6 goals, 2 points Clare 5 goals.

Members of the Limerick team were: Tyler Mackey, J Ryan, E Tracy, C Scanlan, S Gleeson, M Harrington, E Clancy, T Hayes, M McCarthy, M Fealy, T Mangan, J Carroll, B O'Connor, P Vaughan, J O'Grady, M Bourke, T Hayes.

December 13th

The death occurred on Sunday evening at his residence, Castleconnell of Mr. Michael Enright, a well-known figure. Deceased was the fifth son of the late William Enright and was brother of Mr. John Enright, the world champion "Fly Caster". The late Mr. Michael Enright will be remembered as connected with prominent musical entertainments in the city and county. The funeral took place today and it was very large and representative.

Christmas in Limerick, December 27th

The great festival of Christmas was celebrated in Limerick and on all sides it was agreed that the holidays were fittingly observed. The weather was not at all seasonable, constant heavy rain and leaden skies making the outlook for Happy Holidays rather gloomy, but one and all enjoyed themselves. In all the churches, large congregations attended the various masses on Christmas Day and religious observance of the festival was manifested everywhere. The advent of temperance in our midst gives striking testimony of the good it has done. The city, which years ago was often a scene of revelling and boisterousness during Christmas time presented a quiet and respectful appearance this year. This is in large measure due to the good work of the Capuchin Fathers and their great temperance crusade and a notable feature of this Christmas is that there was not a single case for hearing at the police court yesterday.

Compiled by Joan O Siochru

Memories of A Soldier

My name is Denis Geary. I was born in 1920 and reared in Charleville, Co. Cork. I turned 16 in 1936 and although Ireland was now a Free State and free from English domination, unemployment was at an all-time high. I joined the Irish Volunteers but left after a short while and went to England to look for work. Then World War II broke out in 1939 and I decided to return home.

I was not home very long, when I received a letter from the Irish Army to sign up for the annual month's training at the Curragh. (All listed volunteers got one). My brother was a soldier up there, so I got on the train at Glanmire and headed for Kildare.



Denis Geary as a recruit in the Curragh Barracks, 1939.

Not long after I arrived there I and many others, were told that we were now in the Army for the duration of WWII, 7 years in all. We did not have a choice in the matter. Thirty thousand of us swelled the ranks of the Irish Defence Forces at that time. There was a constant air of tension as censorship was rife and we were told very little.

After a period of training at the Curragh, during which many of us lived in tents, we were transferred to Charles Kickham (later McCann) Barracks in Templemore in 1940 and after a period of intense training there, the 12th Desmond Infantry Battalion of the Irish Army was formed and I was given the rank of Corporal. We were eventually ready

to march and I was very happy the day we left McCann Barracks as it was not a very pleasant place.

On a warm summer's day in 1941, about a thousand of us marched 42 miles from Templemore to Castleconnell. Although weary and footsore, I remember thinking that it was the most beautiful place I had ever seen. I

soon learned that the purpose of our presence in Castleconnell was to guard some of the nation's vital installations in the giant powerhouse at Ardnacrusha and the huge dam in O'Brien's Bridge, Co. Clare. As Castleconnell was situated between the two, it was the obvious place to station a command.

The 12th Desmond Infantry Battalion was divided into 5 companies, A,B,C,D and E. I served with D company for the first few months and then I was transferred to Headquarters where the Intelligence Section was formed. There were twelve men in that section, two corporals, a sergeant and a Lt. Officer. I was transferred to Shanacloon House where I remained for the rest of my time in Castleconnell. All of the Intelligence Section had motorbikes and we always went out in convoys and delivered dispatches to Cork, Dublin and elsewhere. We also had to learn the different insignias and organisation of the German and British armies. I was a corporal in that section. While I was billeted in Shanacloon House, many of the soldiers had to make do with hastily constructed huts which were freezing cold during the harsh winters of those years.

I quickly settled into life in Castleconnell and with all my comrades, followed the strict regime of army life. The day began at 6am. We got up, washed and shaved and then went on check parade. Next, we went into breakfast which consisted mostly of bread and butter and the odd egg and rasher. The Army was reasonably fed because of the nature of the work they were engaged in. We were training all the time and the locals got used to the early morning parades and military exercises. Many of the soldiers spent the summers in the bog, saving turf to alleviate the shortage of fuel. I hated this work and avoided it like the plague! One of my duties was to travel to Sarsfield's Barracks in Limerick to deliver turf from the local bog.





- in the Curragh Barracks, 1939.

I found life in Castleconnell very pleasant and I would love to have lived there. I remember visiting Ryan's Shop at the top of the street and Scanlon's Pub on many occasions. I remember the sporting events held in Dolin's field especially the hurling matches. Rival Battalions often lined out against each other and sometimes Ahane were the opposition. We also had shooting competitions and the locals were delighted when the marksmen of the 12th won three All Ireland Shooting Titles in 1944.

Mass was very important, so we swelled the congregation to overflowing every Sunday. When we were off duty, we sometimes walked into the Rink in St John's Pavilion in Limerick. I remember a girl dancing in hob-nailed boots there, such was the shortage of footwear, like so many other commodities during those years.

I met a girl from Nenagh, while I was stationed in Castleconnell. She worked in Hodkinson's Hotel and we started going out together. I often called to Nenagh to see her, however, when the war ended, we went our separate ways.

One of the main events in Castleconnell during the War years was the building of the footbridge and while I was not involved in its construction, I remember the interest and excitement in its progress and eventual completion.

As the war years progressed, many of the soldiers got bored and discontented with the mundane nature of their work and also with the pay in Ireland (13 shillings and 2 pence per week) so a number of them dissented and joined the British Air Force before D Day. The pay was much higher there. There were military police on trains all over Ireland, trying to catch deserters. When the war ended in 1945, many of us were demobbed. I left Castleconnell and headed for Dublin where I spent five years working as a brick layer before going to England in 1953. I have lived there ever since.

I got married and raised a family. I also built up a Hotel business which became my life's work. I never forgot those happy years in Castleconnell though and a few years ago, I went back there to revisit old haunts and old memories. I'm very glad I did!

Denis Geary in conversation with Joan O Siochrú



Denis Geary, taken at McCann Barracks, Templemore.



*McCann Barracks, 1941
Denis Geary, circled*

**Joe Curtin, Stradbally, Castleconnell, Co. Limerick
12th Infantry Battalion**



*12th October, 1943 aged just 17 when he
joined the Army.*



*11th October, 1970 taken on his
retirement after 27 years service.*

Bridge

ENGINEERING

(SERVICES) LTD.

**STEEL FABRICATION &
SITE INSTALLATIONS**

Gooig, Castleconnell, Co. Limerick.

Tel: 061 377880/377037/377183

Fax: 061 377408/377913 & 01 6337805

Mobile: 086 8686526

Email: drawings@bridgeengineering.ie

www.bridgeeng.ie

An Caisleán - The Castleconnell, Ahane, Montpelier Annual 2011

Sunk

If Jack had been with them, Bernie and Tomo would probably never have stolen that boat, and everything might have gone on as before. But that afternoon, Jack had to help his father. His father was installing a stairs for the new owners of old Mrs. Lysaght's house, and Jack had brought the new stairs on an old-fashioned barrow from their workshop in New Street. The workshop had been built by Jack's great grandfather, and was known as the New Workshop, in the same way that old Mrs. Lysaght had been known as Baby until her death at the age of eighty-seven. Jack was embarrassed by the ancient old barrow, but he didn't mind helping with something brand-new like the stairs.

Jack held the stairs steady, standing arms-up and rigid while his father shimmed up the base with wedges of spare wood.

"What do we do now?" Jack said.

Measure-in the top step, level it top an' bottom, fix in the newel post, and hammer all home."

Seeing the spirit-level astride the joists above, Jack scurried up the ladder. He waited for the phrase: "Watch yourself up there now", but it didn't come.

Will I level and measure it here?" he asked, a little over-loudly. He tried not to emphasise the 'I'. His father seemed to consider.

"Do, so."

Jack set to it, measuring along and across. His knees on the double joist, a hand on the cross piece, he craned to judge each placement. He did each place twice, because this was important stuff.

"it has to come up on the inside!"

That sounded good and strong; a responsible voice. He saw a little smile cross his father's face. In the last few years, he had had many arguments with his father, and now his father seemed happy with very small things.

"And it's slightly steep," Jack said. "It's too high."

His father looked up, estimating the truth of what Jack was saying. Jack frowned to show his seriousness. His father moved quickly to the base of the stairs, banged a wedge out on one side and said "How's that?" When no further improvement seemed possible, Jack said "Just so!" On hearing his own phrase, his father's mouth quivered again. Nails were hammered home top and bottom, and permanent stays were inserted at the base. Jack scrambled down the ladder, handed over the spirit level, and stood by his father to check.

“No need”, his father said, and he made that clenched-chin nod that meant a job was finished. Jack flushed with pride. He picked up the toolbag without even being asked but in his hurry he banged it off the door-post on the way out. His father made that sucking sound like a whistle in reverse.

The boat that Bernie and Tomo stole belonged to the Gallaghers. The Gallaghers lived beside the river about a mile from the village in a free-standing house with brick edgings around the windows and doors. Their gravel paths and box hedges were always perfectly kept and it was rumoured that they had figs and apricots in the orchard, not just apples or maybe plums like most people had.

The Gallaghers had five teenage boys that you would almost never meet. If you did meet them, they would nod and smile without breaking stride. Very occasionally, the blond-haired one might be seen fishing. All five went to boarding school. Jack had heard the name of the school but it meant nothing to him – It was in a different county that they probably had some connection with. Because they didn’t mix much, even their name seemed strange and exotic, but Jack’s father said once that they went “a long way back”, whatever that meant.

The Gallagher’s boat had first appeared that summer, while Jack was swimming with Bernie and Tomo at the Pike Hole. The river was deep and slow at that point, about a hundred metres wide, and the peculiar craft was navigating the opposite bank. It looked low and lightly made, with little decks afore and aft. Three of the Gallagher boys sat in the centre well, paddling with their knees sticking up. There was a moment of surprise when the boys saw it. Then Tomo roared across the water: “Hoi! Lookit that yoke! Imagine goin’ down the rapids in that f----n’ yoke!”

Laughter and yahoos followed this across the water to where the Gallaghers serenely paddled. Jack turned away.

“Ye’d put yer foot through it first go!” yelled Bernie.

The boat’s occupants gave little smiles and paddled on.

“Jaaz’,they’re no crack,” Tomo grumbled. He shot a sly grin at Jack, and rolled to face Bernie. Jack didn’t catch the whisper. Bernie made a loud sniggering noise in his nose, in mock suppression of a guffaw, and the pair of them laughed and rolled about in the grass.

Jack didn’t like this new attitude when certain subjects came up. Nor did he want to be included either. Something had changed over the last year. Nothing sudden, but a line had grown between himself and ‘the boys’, between what they would do and what he would do. Previously, they had all jumped orchard walls, comparing fruits back in the hideout. They swam and fished, they sneaked through people’s gardens, and taunted their dogs.

Then, late in the previous summer, Bernie had wanted to fill sacks in an orchard with cooking apples.

"Sacks? What d'ye want sacks of cooking apples for? Jack had asked.

"To sell, dope. Money!"

Jack wouldn't do it. He was too taken aback to think of a reason, so he said he didn't need any more pocket money. That was the beginning of the sniggers. Another time, Tomo wanted to filch sweets from Peggy's sweet shop, which was in one of the cottages in New Street. Bernie grinned, knowing Jack's connection with New Street. Jack said "Why don't ye go for O'Shea's? They've a much bigger selection."

"No chance!"

"Naw, Mrs. Shea's got the evil eye!"

"She can tell ya the dates on yer money an' it in yer pocket!"

"Ya, an' auld Peggy has to put the money up to her nose..."

"She has to put it inside of her glasses..."

"To even see it!"

The two boys wriggled and slapped one another.

"Her glasses is like cups of water!"

"An' her legs is like bags of flour!"

"Yeah", Jack said, "but what's the point in robbin' her when she gives you ones free?"

Tomo nodded at him and said "Ah f—k it, sure!"

The boys whacked each other and laughed at Jack.

So that day they saw the boat at the Pike Hole, Jack knew what the boys were thinking when they started whispering and sniggering.

He said "I suppose ye'd like a go in that boat just the same? I'll go an' ask if ye're afraid of them."

"Hah? I wouldn't take a sh- -e in it in case I'd break it!"

Guffaws. Bernie piped up.

"Maybe a sh- -e would hauld it together!"

Jack laughed.

"You're so full of wind we could go down the rapids on you and no boat!"

"Yer the one!" Tomo laughed. "You and yer f- -s, yer nearly a hovercraft!"

"Me? I saw crows fly off a tree yesterday, soon as you f- - -d!"

"They thought they were shot!" Bernie shouted.

The better insults were awarded with thumps. They went back to their diving and swimming. Eventually, they lay basking in the seedy, insect-hopping meadow, warm in the pink radiance of dropped eyelids.

That day he helped his dad with the stairs, Jack met the boys on his way back up the village.

"Jack! We're goin' on a cruise! Very posh!"

Bernie made to slap Jack on the head. Jack pretended to go for Bernie and punched Tomo lightly in the stomach. Bernie tried to catch him around the neck.

“One ticket left in First Class!” Tomo said.

Jack laughed tightly. It was clear what they were talking about.

“If ye’re goin’ sailing, I’ll look forward to better fishin’ once the maggots have ate ye at the bottom of the river!”

The boys laughed and settled themselves for a slagging match, but Jack kept moving. He gave a half-excuse about a message, keeping his walk slow and careless, trading insults over his shoulder until he moved away.

He had a picture in his mind; the Gallaghers paddling in that slow water, gliding serenely under overhanging trees, with the zip and flick of tiny fish beneath the bow. It was an unattainable vision. He sucked through his teeth, remembering their care with the old boat. What would happen when it was missed? Cyclops, the local Guard, glaring officially at the riverbank? That was funny, in a way, but there was something new in it. It wasn’t the same, messing with people’s property when you were nearly the same size as an adult. And it wouldn’t take a genius to figure out the contenders if that boat was missing, because Tomo and Bernie were getting a reputation. Their parents probably didn’t even know this; they were relatively new in the village, a place where reputations lasted for generations. And stealing a boat would be seen as a low act.

Jack wandered up the path to his house. An idea occurred to him. His eyes widened: he could take that boat from the boys and bring it back to the Gallaghers. He shivered with the thrill of it. It would seem as if the Gallaghers had outwitted the boys, make them out to be better river-men, which would be worth at least a year’s slagging. Doing his household jobs, he played it through his mind, scene by scene. He became animated, throwing timber off-cuts into a pile for burning. If the boys caught him, he was only having a bit of craic. Tomo and Bernie were getting big and it would be a good excuse for them to give him a ducking if they could. He almost relished that tussle; he was fitter than they were, because neither of them hurled, but with two of them it would be tight if it really came to it.

First, he had to find the boat. Upstream of the village, the river was fast-flowing, with a number of islands abundantly covered with bushes and reeds. In high summer, the reeds became so dense that the intervening streams could barely push through. He guessed that the boat would be hidden somewhere in that area. It was too late that day for the boys to take it for a spin, but they would probably take it out the next day, and that would probably be the boat’s final journey. They would exaggerate the details for him later. He went to search out some rope, because he would

the boat up three weirs to get it back to Gallagher's house, and you could bet have to drag your life the boys would have nothing prepared.

Jack's mother looked at him strangely when he asked about the end of the new washing line. He felt her eyes on him as he rummaged for the orange nylon rope, and again as he walked past the kitchen window. But she smiled, and turned back to cleaning a baking tin.

Jack approached the river through the fields instead of the lane. He crossed the road and jumped the low limestone wall, coiling the rope as he went, imagining the various reactions the boys might have when they found the boat had been taken back. Maybe he might leave something funny in its place? Maybe that old plastic baby-bath that someone had thrown over the wall? He could ask the boys to bring him on their adventure, so he could be there when they discovered the baby-bath. Jack wriggled with pleasure. But first things first.

Along the river path, which was barely visible in the leafy explosion of high summer, Jack checked all the places where they could have hidden the boat. He looked for signs of disturbed or broken weeds. He pushed through shoulder-high hogweed, nettles and bulrushes with his arms in the air. In some places he had a reasonable view, in others he had to force a way through bushes or undergrowth to check the river-bank. Dragonflies, sedges and midges blazed bright arcs in the late evening sun. Swallows and wagtails weaved and darted over slick, tinkling currents. The scent of river-mint and mud filled his nostrils. Jack felt completely alone in the world.

At the beginning of the wooded area, where the river began to run deeper, he had to leave the path and descend with a little run to another possible hiding place. And there was the boat. In a stand of bullrushes, pulled from the water, lay a lightly-built, old-fashioned punt, elongate diamond in shape, with small flat spraydecks at either end and carved embellishments that spoke of another age. A coat of dark green paint covered generations of flaky paint and cracked tar. The shape of it reminded him of churches. In the gloom of the alder trees, it had a brooding, almost sinister feeling. A tremble rippled through Jack's bones.

He made himself brisk, checking for holes or other damage. There was no chain or rope, so he had guessed correctly in bringing his own. There was no pole or paddle either. No matter, he wouldn't be going up the middle of any stream, where he might be seen from the road or from the few houses that overlooked the river. He knelt at the bow to tie on his rope, and let his eye run along the line of the gunwale.

At the first movement in the corner of his eye, Jack's hair crawled on his head. Only feet away, all around him, the Gallagher boys stood upright in the high reeds. They stood there, unmoving, looking at him. They came

unhurriedly forward, flattening the reeds as they came. All of them had scratches on their forearms and faces, and the pink lumpy blush of nettlestings. They wore the type of clothes people only wore to mass, lined shirts and pressed slacks, all wet and darkly muddied. They were lean and sinewy-looking. One of them lifted upright a long, smooth ash pole. The pole was for punting in the current, Jack knew, but its dark, spear-like shape against the sky had a primeval aspect. The two oldest carried hurling sticks. Either could have reached out with their hurl and tipped him. Jack stayed on his knees at the knot he had abandoned. He looked at their hurls; they had handle grips and tin bands, and were smooth and well used, with names written in black marker. They did not bring those for paddling a boat.

There was a second or two of complete silence. A moorhen, somewhere, screeched and beat the water. Glances were exchanged, and the blond-haired one, the one who sometimes fished, shook his head and the hurling sticks were thrown with some violence into the boat.

Jack croaked the word “Hiya.” There was no reply.

The Gallaghers lifted the boat. Jack had to move out of the way. It didn’t feel right to stand up, so, on one knee, he pulled a grass stem, and began to twist it and knot it.

He said “Is that your boat?” But his voice had a little shiver.

One of them raised an eyebrow. They put the boat into the water with stiff, sharp movements.

“I found it...floating in the river. I was tying it up. To find the owner.”

One of the older boys muttered something through his teeth. They did not look at each other.

“Ye can keep that rope if ye like.” Jack said. A sour anger began to rise in him. “If that’s your boat, can I’ve a go in it sometime?”

Three of them got into the boat, as many as it could hold. The others moved off through the reeds, not using the path. Their movements seemed deliberately more violent than they needed to be.

“Good luck so!” Jack called.

That got a barely audible response, a sort of grudging politeness.

Standing up, Jack watched the boat as it crossed the current and veered upstream, the tall one at the back standing, using the pole. In the middle of the boat, the youngest looked toward Jack, and Jack saw that he was merely being observed, as one might observe a stone or the stump of a tree. He was being remembered. As the boat passed from view, Jack saw himself in the pitiless clarity of other people’s eyes.

Turning slowly for home, anger rose in Jack like a bubbling spring. As he passed along the river path, his anger became an upwelling that surged

over everything he knew. Before he reached the limestone wall, he knew that nothing would ever be the same with him again. He needed to do something different, and an idea came to him. He began working through the details of building his own boat; a robust, steady boat that would last a lifetime or more. No one, absolutely no one, would be allowed to use it. Except maybe the Gallaghers. If they asked.

Pat O'Connor

Cosgrave Brothers (Oil Products) Ltd.

AUTHORISED MAXOL DISTRIBUTOR

Gouig, Castleconnell, Co. Limerick.

Day Phone: 061-377777

Night Phone: 061 337466 Fax: 061 377979

- Central Heating Oil
- Tractor Diesel & Road Diesel
- Kerosene
- Industrial & Agricultural Lubricating Oils

Delivery Service: Monday to Saturday

Maher's Bar

Main Street, Castleconnell

Music Every Weekend

Setanta Sports

Big Screen T.V. - Pleasant Atmosphere

Paddy Lee

The leaves, russet, brown and orange were swirling on the ground helped on by a souging wind when word spread around Castleconnell that Paddy Lee had passed away. It was October 16th 2010 and people were stunned into sadness as they pondered the man Paddy was, and the impact he made for over seven decades on his village the village he loved so well.

His popularity and his outgoing personality gained him many, many friends which were evidenced in the large crowds who attended his home in Maple Grove to pay their last respects to the man who was the heart beat and fabric of Castleconnell for over seventy years. On the street and in Maple Grove itself knots of people stood in little huddles, all sharing memories of Paddy of how he sold bicycles and dynamos, paraffin oil cookers, gas

cookers and radios. It was in the early 1950s and money was very scarce but if people needed a cooker they got one. He delivered them and fitted them up in the kitchens he didn't expect thanks for that service. Paddy Lee was a decent man. He never lost the human touch with his sense of humour and wit. Later on he established a filling station at Daly's Cross and another in the village and on two occasions when petrol became very scarce during the 1970s and 80s, he made sure that locals never, ever went short sometimes getting up at 4 am to fill cars.

He loved all things sporting, especially the Ahane Hurling Club, he carried us as under age players during the lean fifties to play matches in Kilmallock, Bruff and Caherconlish. He is now gone to that duo who dedicated time and effort in keeping alive the spirit of the Gael. Those two Johnny McMahon and Jim Conway are now playing in the Great Field



beyond the sky with Paddy. But angling and fishing with rod for the wily salmon in the waters at Castleconnell took precedence over all others. He inherited the skill of fly casting from his uncle John Enright who won acclaim on the stage of the world with his casting expertise and skill.

He enjoyed a glass or two on a Sunday night with Carmel, Mary and her husband in Sean Walsh's of the Worrall's Inn, he was a good conversationalist and he had a unique knowledge of our village and the families that made our village tick.

Twelve months on from his death, he is still mentioned and missed by the men who stand outside the church door after morning mass and Saturday evening mass. His wit, humour, anecdotes and stories are missed.

Most of all he is missed by his wife Carmel, sons George and Frank, by his daughters Mary and Suzanne and by his beloved grandchildren.

He is laid to rest in Stradbally Cemetery within earshot of the Falls of Doonass and the river he loved.

*He will live alone in his earth bound chamber
Listening to the Shannon Roll
Listening to the neighbours
Coming in quietly
To say a prayer for his immortal soul.*

God Rest You Paddy Lee

Paddy Tuohy

Eamonn Nicholas

Family Butcher

Annacotty

Phone: 061 337033

- Free Range Eggs ● Free Range Chickens
- Homemade Black & White Pudding ● Freezer Specials

Quality Always

The Ramble Inn

(Pat & Marie Culhane)

Main St., Castleconnell.

Tel: 061-377151

Tea, Coffee, Sandwiches

Music Each Weekend

Darts

The Village Gate Antiques

Castleconnell, Co. Limerick.

Tel: 061 377948 Mbl: 087 9237686

(Est. 1979)

**We offer a wide range of high quality antiques - all
very attractively displayed. Our customers,
Nationwide and Overseas, recommend us and we strive
to keep it like this.**

Open: Monday to Saturday 9.00 a.m. - 5.00 p.m.
(or by appointment)

Ahane GAA Club

... a brief history

Long before Ahane G.A.A. Club was formally founded in 1926, the tradition of hurling was already very strong in the Ahane and Castleconnell parishes. In the late 1800s Michael Mackey, Mick's grandfather, led the local men in an ancient form of our national game called 'Hurling Home' in the fields around Sallymount. The trial between neighbouring districts played without rules or referee was to find the side capable of bringing the ball to their own territory.

By 1886 the neighboring parishes of Castleconnell and Ahane were formally affiliated in the new Gaelic Athletic Association. Castleconnell hurling club sides were prominent at the end of the 19th century under various names including Castleconnell Emmets, Stradbally and Sallymount. In 1910 and 1911, the Limerick GAA Castleconnell selection won the Munster Championship and were runners up in 2 successive All-Ireland finals. Many family names still common today in the parishes were to the fore in those panels, names like Hassett, Mackey, Lee, Scanlan, Vaughan, Herbert and Carroll to name but a few.

The famed Ahane GAA club as it is known today was founded at a meeting in Richill National School called by Rev. P. O'Reilly C.C. on November 22nd 1926. Ahane played their first match against Newport on December 12th 1926 in Ned Ryan's field in Knocksentry which they narrowly lost. The Ahane committee created a shock when they announced they were affiliating a senior as well as a junior team in 1927. In hindsight this proved a wise decision, keeping as many senior and junior players as possible in the parish playing with the club and providing a solid playing base and momentum for the fledgling club going into the 1930s.

When G.A.A. Clubs are discussed in the length and breadth of Ireland, Ahane will always be one to be mentioned because of the success the Club enjoyed in the 1930's and 1940's. During this era, Ahane produced some outstanding hurlers such as the Mackeys (Mick and John), Timmy Ryan, the prince of midfielders, Jackie Power, Paddy Scanlon, Mick Hickey, the Keanes, Jimmy Close, the Herberts and a host of other inter-county stars. Other family names still prominent today in Ahane were also key to the successes of the 30's and 40's... Ryan, Roche, Hayes, Hickey, Byrnes, Conway, Keane, Joyce to name but a few. Ahane's next senior hurling title came in 1955.

Of course no history of Ahane would be complete without making special reference to the legend that was Mick Mackey. Between 1933 and 1939 he played a key role in helping Ahane to an unprecedented seven county titles in-a-row. Not only did he have major success on the hurling field but Mackey also won five consecutive senior county football titles with Ahane between 1935 and 1939. From 1942 until 1949 Ahane captured another unprecedented seven county titles in-a-row, with Mackey featuring prominently in all these victories. Mackey's importance to Limerick hurling is impossible to overstate. When he burst on the hurling scene in the 1930s he was unquestionably the greatest hurler yet seen. From his usual position at centre-forward Mackey inspired the whole team, and their reputation as great entertainers of hurling owed a lot to his charismatic style and his new hurling techniques. He was physically imposing and his swashbuckling style brought huge crowds to see him play. During his playing days it was Mackey that developed the solo-run style, preferring to bounce the sliotar on the hurley as he charged at defences. Mackey's status as one of the all-time greats is self-evident. In a senior inter-county career that lasted for seventeen years he was the star player on the team during Limerick's golden age of hurling. Mackey won three All-Ireland titles, five Munster titles, five consecutive National Hurling League titles and eight Railway Cup titles with Munster.

As an aside, legend has it that the war cry 'Come on Ahane – The spuds are boilin' originated from Mrs. Mary Mackey mother of John, Mick and Paddy. It appears that her boys went practicing after Mass in Castleconnell on Sunday and to herald a halt to proceedings, Mrs. Mackey would stand at the kitchen door and shout 'Come on Ahane – The spuds are boilin' to make sure her trio were on time for Sunday dinner!

With the purchase of fine new playing fields in Newgarden in 1982, now named Mackey Park, the Ahane club gave total commitment to the development of under-age teams and are now reaping a rich harvest fielding teams from under 8 up to senior level in the famous green jersey with gold sash. Indeed, it is interesting to see Turlough Herbert's (a prominent member of the 1998 and '99 senior hurling county champion teams) recent recollections on his time in the club during the 1980's. Turlough's memories zoom in on the volunteer efforts of backroom staff like Paul Kennedy then principal at Lisnagry National School as Bórd na nÓg mentor in Chief. The late Kitty Hassett of Richill, very much the grand old dame of the underage club and a very positive influence in those years. Tom Foley, grandfather of Mark who is a member of today's Ahane Senior hurling panel and how his fruit and veg Hiace pick-up was transformed into a personnel carrier for the young hurlers of Ahane and surely people

like Paul, Tom, Kitty and the many other able volunteer administrators and coaches in the club through-out the 1980s reaped the rewards of their coaching efforts.

Despite having some very good teams in the 1970s, Ahane could not overcome South Liberties who were dominant in East Limerick during this time. Slowly but very surely in the 1980s Ahane started to see success first in under-age divisional titles and then winning the County Under 21 hurling title in 1986, County Minor hurling in 1991 and County Minor Football in 1992 and this paved the way to subsequent senior hurling successes in 1998, 1999 and 2004. The traditional Ahane Hurling family names like Herbert, Hassett and Keane started to re-appear on team sheets backed up by new names like Smith, Meskell, Murnane, O'Grady, Moran and Madden.

Who can ever forget the jubilant scenes when the Daly Cup was presented to Kevin Herbert in 1998 and Clement Smith in 1999 bridging a 43 year gap. These two wins and the huge excitement they generated within the Club also had significant impact on a group of 7 and 8 year old players in the Club who subsequently went on to win the All-Ireland Feile title in 2004, a title which had not been won by any Limerick Club since 1984. Ahane again contested the All-Ireland Feile final in 2007 but lost out to Castleknock. In 2004 the Senior hurlers led by Cathal O'Reilly again won the County title bringing Ahane's total to 19 titles and the leading Club in Limerick in terms of titles won.

Today, Ahane is a vibrant, thriving, progressive and forward looking club with excellent playing fields, a spacious clubhouse incorporating modern dressing rooms, bar and function rooms and has become a focal point for the whole Community. The club has associated camogie and ladies football clubs which also compete at all age groups. Club members are also very active in both Scór na nÓg and Senior Scór competitions achieving success at provincial and All-Ireland levels.

From the townlands of Ballyvarra and Killeengarriff in the South, through Newgarden, Ballinacourty and Bunkey to Lacka, Coolready and Derryhasna in the North, the club covers the parochial areas of Ahane, Castleconnell and Montpelier and has 3 National Schools. The population of the Parish has grown enormously in recent years and the club looks forward to the challenges and opportunities this growth presents. Yes, we understand completely where we have come from, the tradition is very much alive and history is still being made in Ahane.

'Come on Ahane, the spuds are boilin'.

Brian O'Mara

CASTLE ENGINEERING SERVICES LIMITED

WOODPARK, CASTLECONNELL

**SPECIALISTS IN SERVICE ENGINEERING
AND FABRICATION**

ALSO SUPPLIERS OF GATES, RAILINGS, ETC.

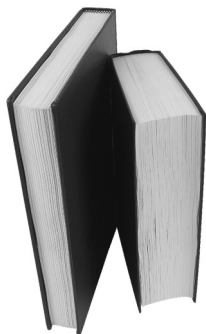
PHONE: 061-377366 MOBILE: 086-8224578

FAX: 061-372007

"Ring Tony McCarthy any time"

Mulcair Print

Commercial Printing - Books - Magazines - Brochures, etc.



Linfield
Pallasgreen
Co. Limerick

Tel. 087-9881945
email: mulcairprint@gmail.com



Ordination of Fr. Ger Fitzgerald

St. Joseph's Church in Castleconnell made history in June of this year when Ger Fitzgerald of St Flannan's Tce was the first priest to be ordained within its walls. It was a historic occasion but also a very happy and joyous one as Ger's family, friends and neighbours were joined by the wider community to share in the celebration. It was a day of firsts, Ger was the first Limerick man to be ordained since 2005, the first Castleconnell man to be ordained in our Parish Church and the Bishop of Killaloe, Kieran O'Reilly performed his first ordination as Bishop.

Fr. Ger is a native of Castleconnell and his parents, Pat and the late Mary were both born in the Parish. He recalls thinking that he would like to be a priest at about nine or ten years of age, and says that there was no defining moment when he thought that his future was in the Church. He recalls that it was more of a natural progression and was always there in the back of his mind as he grew up. He wasn't overly religious as a teenager and young man in his early twenties and was more interested in girls and work but he was encouraged and helped by his family and particularly his father Pat, Fr James Minogue and Fr Brendan Kyne who were always ready to listen to his concerns. By the age of twenty three, after a lot of soul searching and praying to make the right decision, he felt ready to enter Maynooth and begin his spiritual journey to priesthood.

Maynooth, he recalls was a very enjoyable but also hard experience for the young seminarian. There, he met many people from many different walks of life and although he will be one of the youngest priests in the country, he sees this as an advantage in terms of understanding people's concerns about the Church and religion in general. He explains that the Church has in the past hurt a lot of people and needs to address this hurt and listen to what these people have to say in order to begin the process of healing. He is greatly encouraged by the number of young people who he believes, are holding on to their faith and cites a recent visit to Lourdes where he saw

many young men and women who gave of their own free time to help out with the sick and elderly.

Fr. Ger's ordination to the priesthood brought a wonderful sense of community to the parish and both the ceremony and his First Mass, which was celebrated on Monday June 20th were attended by a huge crowd of parishioners, many of whom waited for a long period of time to receive his blessing at the end of Mass.

We wish him a long, happy and fulfilled life as a priest and feel that the people of Ennis parish, which is where he has been assigned for the foreseeable future, are privileged and fortunate indeed.

A. Berkery



Going up the aisle



At the Altar



Around the Altar



Fr. Ger with his family



Fr. Ger being greeted by well wishers



Ed. Butler, Jimmy Ryan and Frank Ryan were at the Ordination.



Mary Moloney, Fr. M. Casey and Majella Reidy.



Mary Moloney, Bishop Kieran O'Reilly and Mary Frewen.



Fr. Hannon, Patsy Keane, Fr. O'Dwyer, Willie Keane and Louie Ryan.



Maura Meskell, Dillie Edmonds and Fr. M. Casey.



Fr. Ger's cousins at the Ordination.

ROSARY HILL — House —

Castleconnell, Co. Limerick. Tel. 061-377530

Rosary Hill House is a 24 Bed Nursing Home set in the picturesque village of Castleconnell. We cater for residents with various dependency levels, 24 hours daily. We have nurses and carers on duty 24 hours, with a high dependency unit for both men and women.

It is a home from home and as such you go to bed when you want and get up when you want, but meal times and drug rounds are kept to time for obvious reasons.

We have a wonderful team of nurses, carers (most of whom have completed Fetec Level 5), catering and housekeeping staff.

Our hairdresser visits weekly to our wonderful salon. Physiotherapy is Monday to Friday. You can also have a massage from our masseuse if required. The chiropodist visits monthly or more often if necessary. Why not try our jacuzzi bath!

We have Bingo & Music sessions weekly. Mild exercises daily. The residents love to watch sport and old time movies on our 50" television in the main sitting room. Papers daily. Birthday parties for each individual - also special events are celebrated.

All future residents and their families are encouraged to come and look around for themselves prior to booking a bed in our home.

We hope to renovate the old part of the house that was once a Boarding School in the near future thus bringing the bed capacity up to fifty, and making it a more enjoyable place to live for the residents.

**Contact: Martin Lynch,
Service Provider,
any time on: 087 2273297**



St Patrick's Day 2011



Ahane Ladies Football Club



Lisnagry Football Club



Ahane Scouts



Mary O'Regan and St. Patrick himself (Matt McCormack)!

An Caisleán - The Castleconnell, Ahane, Montpelier Annual 2011



Castleconnell Scouts



Harley-Davidson Bikers

An Caisleán - The Castleconnell, Ahane, Montpelier Annual 2011



Ahane Camogie Club



Faces in the crowd.



Need to reduce your business costs? Need to increase your profits?

BCM Business Cost Management reduces business costs. For example, we identify (and implement) savings in electricity, telephone costs, mobile phone costs, stationery, printing, packaging, freight & courier costs, food, detergents, cleaning, credit card commissions and many, many more categories.

Crucially, we do not charge a fixed fee – just a % of the savings we find. In other words, we are paid out of ‘found money’.

Try out our special guarantee – If we cannot identify savings for you, then there is no charge whatsoever for the service!

Contact John Mac Namara, Derreen,
Castleconnell, Co. Limerick at any of
the following numbers:

Office: 061- 400580
Home: 061 - 377449
Mobile: 086 – 0397711



BCM House, 18 Mallow Street, Limerick
Tel: 1850 514 614 (lo-call) email: info@bcmcorporate.com
Fax: +353 61 400232 web: www.bcmcorporate.com

No Savings... No Charge!

Pictorial 2011



On behalf of An Caisleán, Joan O Siochrú presents cheque to Tom Tyrrell for the All Saints Restoration Fund.



Mary T and Eleanor Kingston receiving a cheque from Joan O Siochrú on behalf of An Caisleán for Care of the Aged.



On behalf of An Caisleán, Joan O Siochrú presents a cheque to Sean Hartigan and Julie McCabe of the Tidy Towns Committee.



Julie McCabe receiving a cheque from Joan O Siochrú on behalf of An Caisleán for Castleconnell Youth Club.



Castleconnell ICA in Croke Park

Betty Tuohy, Maureen Hartigan, Maureen Kenny, Kay Hickey, Agnes Collins, Mary O'Grady, Brigid Joyce, Nuala Coleman, Mary Jones, Phyllis O'Brien, Margaret McNamara, Nora Tierney, Breda Cregan, Maureen O'Malley, Geraldine Collins, Noreen O'Riordan.



Nancy Holt, Frances Clifford, Toni Breen, Pauline Bradshaw, Donna Murphy, Sinead O'Sullivan, Suzanne McDermott.



Ahane supporters, John Hardiman, George Lee, Tony O'Connell on the top of Croagh Patrick, September 2011.



Castle Golf Society Major Winners 2011

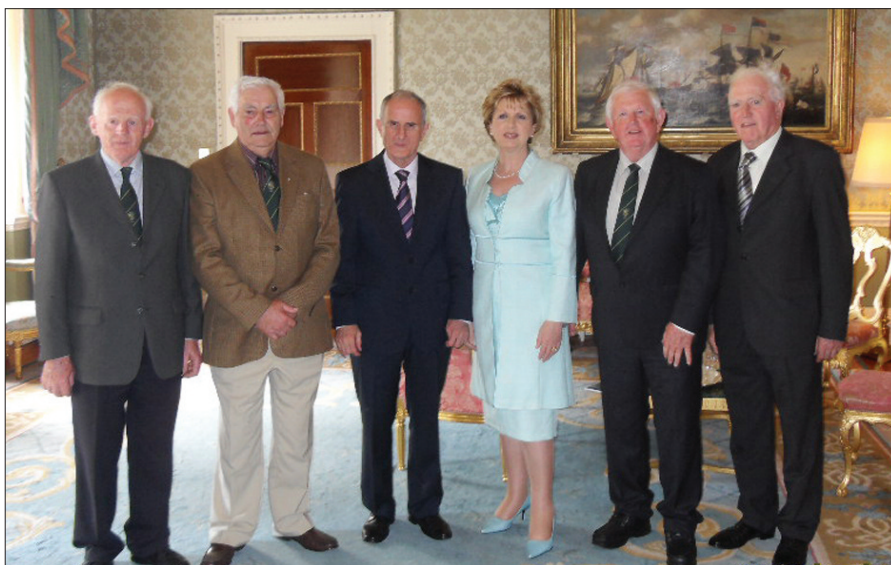
Ger Carroll (President), Willie Reddy (President's Prize winner and Golfer of the Year), Eddie Madden (Captain), Mike Reddington Snr. (accepting the Captain's Prize on behalf of his son, Michael).



*Fr. Ger Jones who was ordained on
21st August, 2011.*



*Bishop Willie Walsh, Bishop Kieran
O'Reilly and Fr. Ger Jones.*



At Áras an Uachtarain
*John Ryan, Willie Keane, Martin McAleese, President Mary McAleese,
Stephen Reidy, Matt Whelan.*



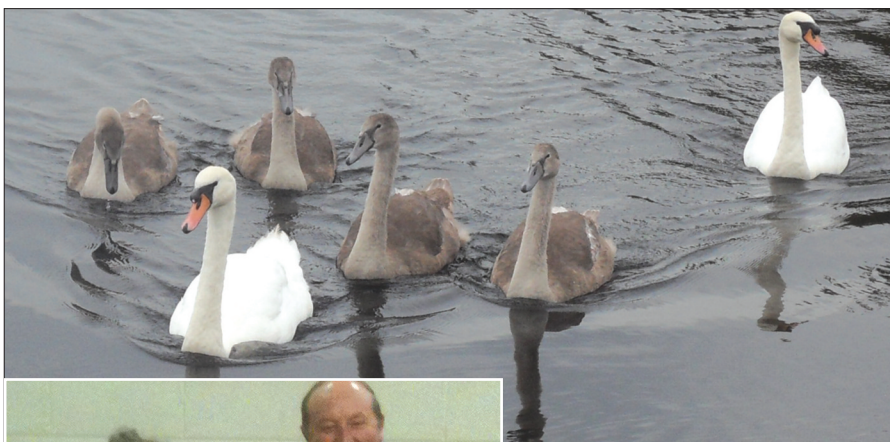
Donal Morrissey, Louie Quirke, Brendan Jones, Gerry Piggott, John Ryan at Ahane GAA Club House.



Remembering the frost last Christmas.



Breda Hardiman, Rhoda McCormack (Australia), Peggy McCormack, Jerry McCormack.



Swans



Tessie Mulreidy making a presentation to Fr. O'Dwyer, on behalf of the people of Mountpelier, to mark his departure from the parish and his appointment as Parish Priest in O'Callaghan's Mills.



O'Brien's Bridge Community Group

July 16th 2011

New Placename Stone Sculpture

The O'Brien's Bridge Community Group have erected a new Placename Stone Sculpture in the village centre of O'Brien's Bridge. The sculpture which has received widespread acclaim and attention is the work of well known Clare sculptor Michael McTigue from Kilnamona and is a beautiful piece of work

The stone, which was uncovered during excavation work on the foundation for the village playground is probably from the old corn mill that operated in the same area during the eighteen hundreds.

The stone, which is a heritage stone in its own right, has the inscriptions Fáilte Driochead uí Bhriain and Waterways Heritage, is designed to link O'Brien's Bridge with its waterways history as being an important port on the Limerick to Killaloe Navigation with a very historic past.

Mick Murtagh

Elaine

1986-2011

Elaine, our big bright, shining star is looking down on us every day. Elaine was born on 21st March and was with us for 25 precious and memorable years. During her years with us she taught us, as a family how to love and created such a strong family bond among us that will never be broken. She was a gift, a precious Angel that we miss every day, but she left us life-long memories and happy stories, that we share. Elaine has extended our family in many special ways



and we hope her life can be an inspiration and give hope, courage and bravery to all families, especially in our SOFT circle. Elaine couldn't have picked a more special day to rest her little body and spread her big wings, after all it is the day of love, 14th February 2011. We know we have a Guardian Angel sitting on our shoulders every day and isn't it a special thing to say - you have known an Angel xx

Nicola



The new sign for Castleconnell at Daly's Cross

An Caisleán - The Castleconnell, Ahane, Montpelier Annual 2011



*Best wishes and continued success to
An Caisleán
from*

Emer Corbett Lifecoach

emercorbettlifecoach@yahoo.ie

mobile 087 9810052

www.lifechangeslifecoach.com

***Lifechanges* Because life changes**

***Elite* Cleaning Service**

**For all your home and office requirements,
contact the professionals with the personal
touch.**

Mobile 087 9182311

Emer Corbett

**Email: elitecleaning@eircom.net
www.elite-contract-cleaning.com**





Left: Moira & Bob Hogg and Caroline McCabe.

Below: Mickie Lawlor, Curley Connelly, Ned Fitzgerald.



Peter Fitzgerald and his son, Adam, saving the turf - July 2011

An Caisleán - The Castleconnell, Ahane, Montpelier Annual 2011

Castleconnell Scouts



An Caisleán - The Castleconnell, Ahane, Montpelier Annual 2011

Mick Mackey Book Launch



*Seamus Walsh
and Micheál Ó
Muircheartaigh
at the book
launch.*

*John Bourke, Henry Martin
author and George Lee at
the launch of Henry's book
Mick Mackey in Ahane
Clubhouse.*



Padraig Power and Margaret Blake



Willie Keane and Donal Hynes



Left: Seamus Kelleher, Niall Moran and John Ryan.

Below: John Bourke, Patsy Coffey and Seamus Walsh.



Matt and Eileen Whelan



Seamus Walsh and Ann Mulqueen.



Carmel Power with Micheál



Tony Kennedy, Louie & Bernie Quirke.

Peter O'Donnell Photographer
ALPPA, Q.E.P.



PANORAMIC LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY OF IRELAND

Castle Street, Castleconnell, Co. Limerick. 061 372277
www.thewidereye.com

An Caisleán - The Castleconnell, Ahane, Montpelier Annual 2011

Fr. James Minogue - Diamond Jubilee Celebration

What a year it has been for our parish with two ordinations, and a priest celebrating 60 years in the priesthood!

Fr. James was born in Co. Clare and grew up on the family farm with his parents and siblings. He attended national school in Tuamgraney and he travelled to St. Flannan's College in 1939 to attend secondary school. He enjoyed his



time there and played for the College Hurling Team, captaining St. Flannan's to victory in the All-Ireland Colleges Hurling Final in 1944.

He decided to enter St. Patrick's College Maynooth in September of that year and together with four other students from the Diocese of Killaloe he began his journey to the priesthood. He was ordained in June 1951 and celebrated his first Mass in Latin. He then returned to celebrate Mass in his local church, which was an emotional and incredibly moving experience as he had served mass there as a young boy for many years. Giving his Blessing to his friends and neighbours is a memory he will never forget.

In September of that year, he was sent to London where he met and integrated with many Irish emigrants, playing hurling and organising a céilí every Sunday night.

He returned to the Diocese of Killaloe two years later and has worked in Killanena, Kilkishen, Crusheen, Sixmilebridge, Newmarket on Fergus, Shannon and now Castleconnell.

As he said in conversation with Donal O'Regan of the Limerick Leader who attended the celebration, "My Gospel is to smile".

A huge crowd attended the Diamond Jubilee Mass of the popular Clare man and party afterwards in the community hall.

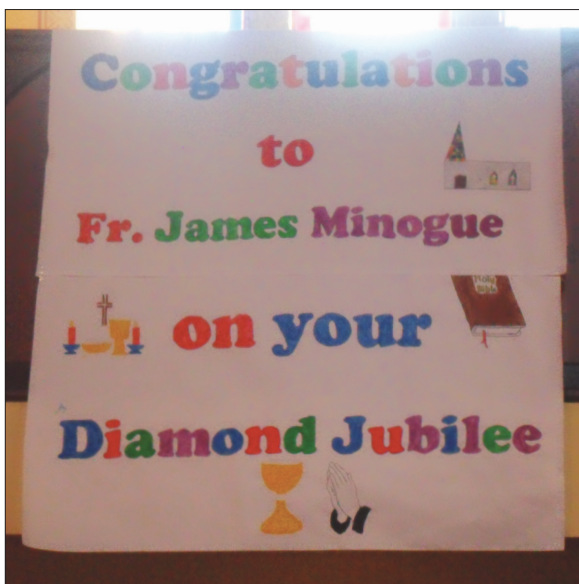
“I said I’d answer two questions people have been asking me for a long time,” said the renowned storyteller.

“One is why did you become a priest? The other is have you any regrets? I said I would answer the second one first – I’ve no regrets whatsoever. If I was starting again I’d start

all over again if I got the chance,” said Fr. Minogue, who first came to Castleconnell 23 years ago. It’s been a summer of religious celebrations in the village. Thirty one year old local man Ger Fitzgerald was ordained in June. Coincidentally that was around the same time as Fr. Minogue’s official Diamond Jubilee.

“Fr. Fitzgerald was being ordained so I said I was going to stay quiet. There were huge celebrations and excitement around the parish which I think was wonderful. It gave a great uplift to the whole parish. At the ordination Bishop Kieran O’Reilly said there were great celebrations in Mullagh for a priest who was celebrating his Diamond Jubilee. He turned around to me and said ‘you’re going to have another one here’. There was a big group involved in the ordination committee, choirs, decorators, caterers, helpers – and they said we have to do it for you too” said Fr. Minogue, who never drank or smoked in his life. “I love it here, the people are wonderful. If you saw the show they put on the other night, I nearly died. When I came down the street there were decorations up. I was wondering was it President Obama that was coming!” said Fr. Minogue.

At the Mass he told a story from when he was saying Mass in a Nursing Home in San Francisco. “There was a mixed crowd of religions. I don’t know were there too many Catholics. There was a lady who was very charismatic. Every time I said ‘The Lord be with you’ she shouted Hallelujah! I said that’s what I want you all to do tonight to sing Hallelujah



and leave with big smiles on your faces. The three choirs were beautiful,” said Fr. Minogue.

On Friday night Fr. Minogue told Fr. Fitzgerald “to take out your diary and mark down 2071 and you’ll be having your Diamond Jubilee”.

Despite being 86 he is as busy as ever. “I have a wedding on Friday. They’re still asking me to marry them. One lady booked me for 2014. I said ‘are you sure I’ll be around?’ ‘You better’, she said. It’s lovely, I love doing these things and meeting people.”



Bishop Kieran O'Reilly and Fr. Minogue.



Fr. Ger Fitzgerald with Fr. Minogue.



*Sister Eileen Keane,
Bishop Kieran O'Reilly
and Fr. Kyne.*

*Esther O'Connell,
Mary Smith, Fr.
Hannon and Maureen
O'Sullivan.*





James and Geraldine Murphy.



Anne Ryan and Mary Aherne



Majella Reidy, Fr. Minogue and Mary Frewen.



Esther O'Connell and Marie Ryan



Fr. Ger Fitzgerald and Seamus Aherne



L/R: Helen Gilhooly, Fr. Minogue, Bridget Keogh, Esther O'Connell. Front - Breda O'Connor

PAINTING & DECORATING

COMMERCIAL, DOMESTIC, INDUSTRIAL,
CHURCHES, SCHOOLS, PUBS,
INTERIOR & EXTERIOR.

FREE QUOTES

NO JOB TOO BIG OR TOO SMALL

- FULLY INSURED -

**JOHN
BOURKE**



**Tel.
087 2305673**

Sporting Pictures



Eoin Murphy, Neil Corbett, Ronan Fox, Dara Keogh.



*Neil Corbett competing in Limerick
Community Games.*



Nick and Michael Hogan.



Ahane Senior Hurling Team - East Champions 2011



Ahane Under 16 hurlers



Ahane Under 12 hurlers



Lisnagry Soccer Team



Ahane Junior Camogie Team

Back row: Elaine Joyce, Marie Hayes, Mary O'Connor, Anne Madigan, Sinead O'Sullivan, Aoife Madden, Tara Lenihan, Marie Quirke, Claire Hartigan, Catherine McGill, Eilis Flannery.

Front row: Mags Jones, Sarah Walsh, Elaine Ryan, Mary Hassett, Rachel Leonard, Denise Kelleher, Gina Hourigan.



Lisnagry Under 6 Team

HERBERT & Co.

SOLICITORS

Providing a full range of legal services

Best wishes to An Caisleán

PARTNERS - JOHN HERBERT BA BCL, TURLOUGH HERBERT BA LLB.

GLANMIRE SUITE, PARK HOUSE, ARTHURS QUAY, LIMERICK
PHONE: 061 211 211 FAX: 061 211 210 EMAIL: INFO@HERBERTCO.IE

An Caisleán - The Castleconnell, Ahane, Montpelier Annual 2011

Mid West Vocal Academy Community Choir who took part in the War Commemoration at City Hall on Sunday July 10th 2011.



Included in photo Maureen O'Sullivan, Sheila Byrne, Noel Fox, Martha Laffan, Theresa Cosgrave, Anne Berkery, Sinead Sweeney and Tom Gubbins.



Tim Schinnick, Helen Gilhooly and Owen Gilhooly.



Kerry Hurley and Fiona Smyth.

Mrs. Hartigan

The honour of being the first ever President of Castleconnell/Ahane Credit Union has been bestowed on one of its founding members, Mrs Helen Hartigan. Mrs. Hartigan was instrumental in starting the Credit Union back in 1983, she was the first treasurer and has been on the Board ever since.

She was surrounded by her family, friends and members of the Credit Union in Tí Seán restaurant where she was presented with a specially commissioned silver chain with her name engraved on the first of nineteen links. Making the presentation, Chairman of the Board, Stephen Reidy described Mrs Hartigan as ‘the mother of our Credit Union’. Stephen thanked



her sincerely for the huge contribution she has made to the success of the Credit Union and for her sound advice through all her years serving on the Board, and in her many other duties as a conscientious and dedicated worker on committees within the Credit Union.

Her son, Sean remembered the beginnings of the idea of forming a Credit Union, which began in the family kitchen with Sean Walsh and the late Frank Spillane. A survey was carried out in the parish and following a positive response, they began to speak to other Credit Unions in the country and contacted the Irish League of Credit Unions. It took about two years to set up and by then other people interested in the concept came on board and so Castleconnell /Ahane Credit Union was born.

It was a very enjoyable evening with refreshments and chat and lovely to see so many of Mrs. Hartigan’s family, her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren present to celebrate such a happy occasion with her. Stephen concluded by adding “her commitment to Castleconnell /Ahane Credit Union is immeasurable and we wish her the very best of health and again thank her sincerely”.

A. Berkery



Castleconnell/Ahane Credit Union Ltd.

Telephone: 061 377056 Fax: 061 377442

email: cacu@eircom.net

PUTTING PEOPLE FIRST FOR:

- Loans (Fixed Rate Interest)
- Life Savings Insurance (Free) ● Loan Protection Insurance (Free) ●
- Death Benefit Insurance ● Savings Stamps ●
- Foreign Exchange ● Western Union Money Transfer ●
- V.H.I. Group Scheme Rate ● Axa Motor Insurance 10% Off ●

ENQUIRIES WELCOME

- Opening Hours -

Castleconnell:

Monday 9.45 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. - 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.
 Tuesday 9.45 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. - 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.
 Wednesday 9.45 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. - 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.
 Thursday 9.45 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. - 2.00 p.m. to 5.00 p.m.
 Friday 9.45 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. - 2.00 p.m. to 7.30 p.m.

Not For Charity, Not For Profit, But For Service

O'Brien's Bridge Community Group

August 30th 2011

Re: Old Heritage Anchor

The O'Brien's Bridge Community Group unveiled a very old wooden stock heritage anchor during Heritage Week. This very important artefact was in recent times discovered on the riverbed and has recently been restored. The anchor was found just out from the capstan and the location of the find very strongly suggests that there is a very close connection between both artefacts.

We already know that the capstan, which we believe may be the only one in Ireland, was used as a device to haul the horse drawn barges up through the navigation arch of the bridge in heavy water during flood conditions. It is also said that villagers helped to pull the barges up through the navigation arch using ropes during these same flood conditions.

We now believe that the anchor and the capstan were part of the same system used to help the barges to negotiate the very dangerous conditions that existed in O'Brien's Bridge during the Limerick to Killaloe Navigation.



An Caisleán - The Castleconnell, Ahane, Montpelier Annual 2011

The anchor is six foot in length with a wood stock five foot wide across. It is said that these types of anchors were phased out towards the end of the eighteen-century so it is a very important and historic find. It is now displayed in



Brian Goggin giving talk on anchor.

public alongside the capstan and both artefacts are located upstream of the bridge on the O'Brien's Bridge National Loop Walks.

Mr Brian Goggin waterways historian gave a talk to a very attentive audience on the importance of both the Capstan and the Anchor in relation to the Limerick to Killaloe Navigation.

The Community Group also launched a very attractive heritage guide to the O'Brien's Bridge Loop Walks on the same day. This is a very attractive heritage brochure with photos and information on all of the heritage artefacts that can be seen all along the walks. A map with numbers highlights the location of each artefact.

A beautiful little heritage garden with heritage stonewalls and old farm machinery was also unveiled so it was a big heritage day in O'Brien's Bridge. The local community together with the general public and their public



representatives from both sides of the river were invited on the day and this resulted in an excellent turnout.

**Michael
Murtagh,
Chairman**

*Local
representatives at
unveiling of anchor.*

Ahane Underage Camogie

Ahane Camogie Club field teams in various age groups from Under 8 to Under 16. The Under 8 and 10 teams play in Club and County Blitz's in Limerick and the Under 11, 12, 13, 14 and 16's, play in league/championship matches organised by the Limerick Camogie Board. Our teams have had a great season this year with a number of them reaching their respective County Finals in the Grade they play in.

Ahane were honoured to have Roisin O'Mara, Alana Casey, Niamh Martin and Aine Reynolds playing on the East Primary Schools Camogie Team that won the Neville Cup for the first time. Margaret Hickey was a mentor. A number of our players have also been involved with the Limerick County Development Squads at Under 12, 14 and 16.

Thanks to all the Players, Mentors, Coaches and parents who give up their time to promote and play camogie and to Ahane GAA Club for the use of their facilities.

Great Excitement as Ahane U12 Camógie secure County U12B Shield Title in hotly contested county final

Ahane 2-1 Croagh-Kilfinny 1-2

Ahane U12 girls secured the county U12B Shield title in a closely fought match under glorious conditions in Monaleen. The very well drilled Croagh-Kilfinny team came out of the traps first and put the Ahane team under severe pressure in the first half and only for great saves from the Ahane goalkeeper Emer Kenny and a resolute fullback line of Catriona O'Halloran, Alana Casey and Niamh Martin, Croagh-Kilfinny would have surely expected more return than a single goal and point from their first half endeavours. Ahane on the other hand also secured a first half goal resulting from a great 21 yard shot to back of the net by Aine Reynolds. So at half time only a single point divided the sides.

The Croagh-Kilfinny girls got off to another strong start after half time and were rewarded with a point from a long range free. At this stage the Ahane half back pairing of Aoife Quinn and Aine O'Curry came into their own and were strongly supported by Ahane midfield pairing of Sine Hartigan and Faye Shortt. The Ahane full forward line of Kathlyn Coleman, Aine Mooney and Emily Knapp kept the pressure on Croagh Kilfinny backs and were rewarded with a 21 yard free that Roisin O'Mara dispatched to the back of the Croagh Kilfinny net. Ahane now ahead by a single point threw everything into the last, very tense 5 minutes and clever use of the Ahane

bench with Kathleen Conway, Niamh O'Curry, Rheanna Byrnes, Rachel Slattery and Zoe Mullane meant that Ahane were able to take advantage of a final 65 to score another point and secure a well deserved victory in this very exciting county final fixture.

Ahane captain, Aine O'Curry accepted the county shield on behalf of Ahane and rightly thanked Croagh-Kilfinny for an extremely tough, but also very skillful and fair match on the night. The Ahane side were last seen doing the traditional victory circuit of Castleconnell village in car convoy!



Back Row: Kathleen Conway, Catriona O'Halloran, Aine Reynolds, Kathlyn Coleman, Faye Shortt, Aoife Quinn, Aine Mooney, Rheanna Byrnes, Emer Kenny, Zoe Mullane, Rachel Slattery.

Front Row: Sine Hartigan, Emily Knapp, Niamh Martin, Roisin O'Mara, Aine O'Curry, Alana Casey, Niamh O'Curry.

Peggy Duffy Memorial Cup 2011

Ahane hosted the Peggy Duffy Memorial Cup in Mackey Park in June. Over 80 young girls from the ages of seven to thirteen from the three local schools, Ahane, Castleconnell and Lisnagry participated. The girls were divided into two age groups Under 10 (4 teams) and Under 13 (4 teams). Each team played each other once with the top two reaching the final. It was great to see so many girls enjoying the day and the standard of camogie was a joy to watch. There was nothing between the teams in the final, with two teams sharing the cup. The winning teams were: Roisin O'Mara, Amy Ryan, Aine Reynolds, Sarah Haughey, Aoife O'Halloran, Niamh Martin, Hilary Smith, Aisling Twomey, Faye Shortt, Sinead Mesckell,

Emily Knapp, Natasha Culhane, Tara Ryan and Grace Allen.

Peggy Duffy was a major driving force behind Ahane Camogie Club, having restarted the Club in 1960 with Fr Murray. Peggy went on to win five County Medals playing with her beloved Ahane and played with Ahane in a Camogie Club All Ireland Final against St Paul's, Kilkenny, played in Castleconnell. Peggy served as Secretary of the Limerick Camogie Board for a number of years and was a selector on the Limerick Junior All Winning team in the 1970's. During this period Peggy trained a number of underage teams in the parish.

Our thanks to our sponsors: Cosgrave Oil, George Lee, Frank and Kay Lee, the players, schools, parents, referees, team mentors, organising committee and anybody who helped to make the tournament such a huge success.

Photograph of winners of the Peggy Duffy Memorial Cup were:



Back Row: Amy Ryan, Sarah Haughey, Niamh Martin, Aisling Twomey and Sinead Meskill.

Middle Row: Kathlyn Coleman, Aine Reynolds, Aoife O'Halloran, Hilary Smith, Lily Shortt and Emily Knapp

Front Row: Grace Allen, Tara Ryan and Natasha Culhane

Camogie – Ahane Under 13A

Camogie Autumn League Champions

Congratulations to the Ahane under 13 Camogie Team who won the Under 13A Camogie Autumn League for the first time. On the path to the final the Girls beat Monaleen, Na Piarisiagh and Cappamore and overcame Ballybrown in the semi final to setup a meeting with Adare in the Final. The final was played in glorious conditions in Adare with both teams displaying great skill and determination in a very close game. Ahane ran out worthy winners on a scoreline of Ahane 2-2 and Adare 2-1. Our thanks to the mentors, coaches, players, parents and supporters. The heroes on the day were: Rachel Slattery, Robyn Nugent, Aine Mooney, Aoife Quinn, Alana Casey, Roisin O'Mara, Captain, Faye Short, Catriona O'Halloran, Emer Kenny, Hilary Smith, Sine Hartigan, Niamh Martin, Aine O'Curry, Aine Reynolds, Niamh O'Curry, Sinead Meskell, Emily Knapp and Katie Molloy.



Back Row: Rachel Slattery, Robyn Nugent, Aine Mooney, Aoife Quinn, Alana Casey, Roisin O'Mara, Captain, Faye Short, Catriona O'Halloran and Emer Kenny.

Front Row: Hilary Smith, Sine Hartigan, Niamh Martin, Aine O'Curry, Aine Reynolds, Niamh O'Curry, Sinead Meskell, Emily Knapp and Katie Molloy.

Ahane Ladies Gaelic Football Club

Ahane Ladies football club has currently 90 registered players from the ages of 6 to 16 playing football with the Club. Our Under 8 and 10 teams play in Club and Development Blitz's in Limerick and our Under 11, 12, 14 and 16 teams play in league/championships and blitz's organised by the Limerick Ladies Football Board. A number of our players have represented their primary schools on the East Limerick Schools Football Team and more are involved with the Limerick County Development Squads. The Club is going from strength to strength, having been formed only a few years ago. This year a Gaelic 4 Mothers team was setup, so that the parents could meet up and have fun training. We have great support from Ahane GAA Club, coaches and parents who give up their time and it is great to see so many girls playing and enjoying the sport. We train every Saturday morning down in Ahane GAA Pitch and new players and members are welcome to join us any time.

Ladies Football – Ahane U16 County Novice Champions



Back Row: Niamh Reynolds, Sarah Stokes, Niamh Cullimore, Michaela Dolan, Jane Heffernan, Jade Collopy, Sinead O'Regan, Karen Leahy, Rebecca Hartigan, Eimear Hartigan & Lizzy Healy

Front Row: Aine O'Curry, Deirdre Bourke, Siofra Keane, Kate Feeney, Sarah McNamara, Amber O'Neill, Elaine O'Keeffe, Abi Fox & Ailbhe Keane.

Congratulations to the Ahane under 16 Girls Football Team who won the County Under 16 Novice Championship Final played in Ahane in September. Ahane overcame Athea in the semi final to set up a place in the final against Monaleen. It was a great game of football with Ahane taking an early lead and both teams exchanged a number of scores and Ahane held out as worthy winners on a scoreline of Ahane 7 Goals and 2 Points to Monaleen 4 Goals and 5 Points. It was a great game of football in testing conditions and credit must go to the girls on a great display of football. Our thanks to the players, parents and supporters for supporting the girls. The heroes on the day were: Niamh Reynolds, Sarah Stokes, Niamh Cullimore, Michaela Dolan, Jane Heffernan, Jade Collopy, Sinead O'Regan, Karen Leahy, Rebecca Hartigan, Eimear Hartigan, Lizzy Healy, Aine O'Curry, Deirdre Bourke, Siofra Keane, Kate Feeney, Sarah McNamara, Amber O'Neill, Elaine O'Keeffe, Abi Fox and Ailbhe Keane. Manager: Terry Cullimore and Team Mentors: Mary Feeney, Breda Ahern, Niamh Keane and Aileen O'Keeffe.



Community Games Finalists

Back Row (L/R): Christopher O'Sullivan, Kevin Morrissey, Andy Rowsome, Andrew Shanahan, Ronan Fox, Evan Power, Peter O'Grady, Paddy Hoen Quinn, Cian Smith, David Brennan.

Front Row (L/R): Mark Donnellan, Adam Murrihy, Tom Marsden, Sean Greensmyth, Jake Vaughan, Pdraig Harnett, Aidan Carroll, Kevin O'Brien, Ryan O'Connell.

THE SECOND CEMETERY MASS AT KILLEENAGARRIFF IN OVER 360 YEARS

By Mary A. Moloney



On the night of Friday, August 12th, 2011, over one hundred local people, some coming home especially for the occasion gathered at the little ruined church at Killeenagarraff, Co. Limerick for the second Mass to be offered there by Rev. Fr. James Minogue. This was the second time Mass was offered there in over 360 years. The cemetery committee had once again invited Fr. Minogue to celebrate Mass in the unique and historical cemetery following further restoration work which had taken place in the intervening years since the Millennium celebrations there in June of 2000. Fr. James Minogue had promised the committee then that when they had restored the graveyard, he would come and offer Mass there. The late Maureen Richardson had been instrumental in the instigation of the cemetery's restoration. Pat Vaughan (a committee member) in an interview with the Limerick Leader in August, 2011 stated "It was in a very bad state at that time. If anyone was to be buried, you had to get someone with a strimmer to cut a path through the briars and the nettles". Ever since then the committee have continued to look after the cemetery and

improve it. "A local contractor filled in a hollow that people were never buried in which gave the graveyard a further 44 graves for the local people", said Pat.

On August 12th at 7.00pm, Mass was scheduled to begin. As the church filled to capacity and others lingered in the graveyard viewing the graves of their loved ones, Mass commenced with the Opening Hymn sung by the combined members of the Ahane and Castleconnell choirs along with harpist Siobhan Egan.

Pat Vaughan began by welcoming those assembled to Killeenagarraiff and thanked Fr. Minogue for his presence there that evening. Pat informed us that the committee had raised €15,000 to build a limestone wall all around the cemetery which had only recently been completed. Donal and Irene Hynes donated a six foot crucifix originally situated in the grounds of the Mary Immaculate College, Limerick, while another anonymous family had donated new gates to the cemetery. He mentioned in passing that the last Mass in recent times had been offered to Killeenagarraiff Church in 2000 to celebrate the Millennium, prior to that the last recorded Mass was celebrated in the little ruined church in 1648.

The celebration of the Eucharist continued apace. The readings (read by Jimmy Ryan of Laught) were all chosen carefully to fit in with the solemn occasion. During his homily, Fr. Minogue spoke of the historical significance of the Killennagarraiff Church and graveyard, remembering the many songs which were written concerning Penal times in Ireland. He alluded to "Fr. Murphy from old Kilcormack" and the way in which the people of the area held on to their faith "in spite of dungeon, fire and sword". He also mentioned that many people who had attended the Millennium celebrations eleven years previously had passed to their heavenly reward. Among them were Maureen Richardson who had first come to Fr. Minogue telling him about the little church in Killeenagarraiff when he came to the parish. He in turn had tried in vain to have the church and grounds restored through "official channels" but then the local cemetery committee began the work themselves, "their success has proved what can be achieved by a committed group of local people working together" said Fr. Minogue.

The Prayers of the Faithful included the intentions of all those present as well as praying for the souls who were buried in the hallowed grounds of Killeenagarraiff Church and graveyard. Mass continued with just a little sprinkling of rain, this did nothing to dampen the spirits of all those present.

Towards the conclusion of the celebration, Pat Vaughan once again took to the microphone and thanked a number of people "without whom this night

would not have been possible” He thanked Irene and Donal Hynes for the donation of the crucifix, Eileen O’Malley and the late Paddy O’Malley for their assistance through the years, along with former local councillor Paddy Hourigan. A special word of thanks was recorded for Jimmy Ryan whose



organisation of a collection for the cemetery each year had led to the raising of €15,000 which had gone into the erection of a limestone wall surrounding the cemetery. Pat invited those present to sing “Danny Boy” which had a particular significance for the Richardson family. The late Dan Richardson had taken upon himself each year to organise a “clean-up” of the graveyard. The assembled congregation sang the song with pride.

Fr. Minogue then blessed the graves in the graveyard and once again prayed for all who were buried in the four hundred year old cemetery. By 8.30pm Mass was over but the neighbours and friends lingered on wishing to remain in the peaceful balm of what is Killeenagarrieff church and cemetery.

Pictures courtesy William Carey



An Caisleán - The Castleconnell, Ahane, Montpelier Annual 2011

Limerick Youth Service

Castleconnell Youth Club was established in the 1960s and is now affiliated to the Limerick Youth Service.

This club opens every Friday night from 8-10pm in the local parish hall. It runs social and recreational programmes for young people from Castleconnell village and surrounding areas. It caters for young people aged between 12 and 18 years. This age group also includes junior leaders, who receive training to facilitate groups and leaders. Young people also take part in the local St. Patrick's Day parade every year.

The Youth Club is run on a voluntary basis and is constantly recruiting volunteers, in order to ensure the future of the Club.

We will be recruiting new volunteers this year if anyone is interested in helping out, we would be delighted to hear from you.

Margaret Byrnes, Youth Club Leader
Castleconnell Youth Club, 087 6268762





Castleconnell Tidy Towns members collecting at Christmas



Castleconnell Tidy Towns - wildlife panel



PROFESSIONALS IN CONDITION MONITORING

Electrical Equipment • Mechanical Systems • Steam Distribution
Leakage Management • Building Energy Inspections

Our Services include:

- Vibration Analysis, Balancing & Laser Alignment
- Thermography (Electrical and Mechanical)
- Ultrasonic Leakage Management (Compressed Air, Nitrogen, Argon, etc)
- Industrial Energy Audits
- Steam system surveys/ Steam trap detection
- Portable Appliance Testing
- Lubrication & Oil Analysis
- HT Maintenance & Power Quality Surveys
- Infrared Inspection Window Supply & Installation
- Vibration Sensor Supply and Installation
- Refrigeration and cold storage mapping

Head Office:
Roselawn House
National Technological Park
Castletroy, Limerick
Ireland

T: +353 61 203933
F: +353 61 203934
E: info@eastwaytech.ie
W: www.eastwaytech.ie

Bernard Berkery & Co.



Raising the Castleconnell Craft Fair flag are: (L/R) Judy O'Hare, Mary O'Connor, Gbnait O'Connell and Irene Hynes.



castleconnellkarate.com

Monday: Castleconnell

Mixed Ages 7.00pm - 8.30pm

Wednesday:

Transition Years/Youth Groups

Thursday: Lisnagry N.S.,

Mixed Ages 6-14, 7.00-8.30pm

Friday: Castleconnell

All Ages 6.30pm - 8.00pm

Phone Ray @ 087-6656997

Lisnagry National School

Library, Liam McCarthy and Lots of Laughter

The 2010/2011 school year was a hive of activity once again for the pupils, staff and parents of Lisnagry National School. As we look back now we can see the many opportunities for learning and personal development offered to the pupils over the last twelve months. We had the successful establishment of our new school library. This facility has greatly enhanced the reading experience of the children. The children visit the library once a week and enjoy the huge selection of books which are constantly being updated. We also started work on our new classroom and outside shelter which will be a great addition to the school.

The first week back to school in September was a very exciting time in particular because the focus was on our new classroom teacher Mr. McGrath who was on the hunt for All Ireland Hurling glory with Tipperary. Some weeks later the atmosphere was electric when the famous Liam McCarthy cup visited Lisnagry! Pupils got their photos taken and it was certainly a day that everyone, young and old will remember.



East Limerick Schools Football Champions



The McCarthy Cup comes to Lisnagry N.S.

On the sporting front, we had a very successful year. Our indoor hurling team won the East Limerick Final and were runners up in the County Final. In football the boys beat a tough Killinure team in the Gaelic Grounds to win the East Limerick Final. Our girls competed in the 12 a side league and the INTO mini 7's and really enjoyed the experience. As always basketball is very popular and both the girls and boys teams had much fun representing the school at a number of blitz in their new basketball kit fundraised by the Parents Association. This year saw a rise in participation of chess. The Lisnagry chess team played several matches against other schools in Scoil Íde Corbally. They made it through to the Check Mate Primary Schools final- such a great achievement!

During their time in Primary School it is important for pupils to foster a sense of empathy with those less fortunate than themselves and to learn that they can make a difference in society. This year 6th class fundraised for Our Lady's Children's Hospital in Crumlin. Activities included a treasure hunt, long puck, nail painting, sweet shop and many more. A total of €1,418 was raised for this worthy cause. We are very proud of their efforts.

Every year we celebrate Seachtain na Gaeilge as we feel it is important for children to experience the Irish language and culture. The children perform songs and poems 'as Gaeilge' at the ceolchoirm and dance a few jigs at the Ceilí Mór! Baineann na páistí taitneamh agus tairbhe as dar ndóigh.

This year we were chosen to participate in the 'Artist in Residence' programme. We had the expertise of Ciarda Tobin who worked in the area of Drama with children from 3rd, 4th and 5th. The children found the classes fun and they learned many new skills and drama concepts.

Sixth Class were confirmed on February 12th and the First Communion took place on May 14th in Ahane church. Both ceremonies were very special and the children sang beautifully.

As always pupils had many opportunities to become involved in projects and activities throughout the year. Most notable among these included our Christmas Nativity in the church, school assemblies, U.L. P.E. students working with our senior pupils, science week, sports day, and school tours. As another school year draws to an end, we wish our sixth class pupils all the very best as they embark on the next stage of their journey into secondary school. We extend a special thank you to all the families and friends of Lisnagry School community who helped us throughout this busy year.



Crumlin Hospital Fundraiser



*Christmas
Nativity
Play*



Lisnagry NS - Ceolchoirm

Last December, local girl Hannah O'Brien won the Limerick's Live 95fm Talent Search receiving the prize of five thousand euro. The competition was for acts of any talent, and consisted of three rounds leading up to a final in the University Concert Hall, which was a great event. Through her involvement in the contest, Hannah has been given the opportunity to play more music, and gig around Limerick, which she hopes to continue doing in the future!



An Caisleán - The Castleconnell, Ahane, Montpelier Annual 2011

Care of The Aged

The Care of the Aged Organisation was set up in Castleconnell in 1977 to serve the needs of the elderly in the parish. Our patron is Fr. James Minogue. We have eleven long-serving members on our committee and a sub group of about twenty two drivers who help with the delivery of our meals-on-wheels service. It is a voluntary organisation with no paid personnel.

Our meetings are held once a month in the Sacristy of Castleconnell Church, where all matters discussed are strictly confidential.

The services we provide which are grant aided from HSE are twice weekly meals-on-wheels. At present we provide 18 dinners, and a bi-monthly chiropody clinic which is held in Castleconnell and also a home chiropody service. We install personalised alarms which are grant-aided and we also try to make visits to our senior citizens every month. Fuel is delivered from November to April through the Winter Fuel Scheme.



Our social gatherings include an Annual Outing in July and a Christmas Party in Castle Oaks House Hotel. The cost of the meal and music is met by the organisation, as are the refreshments served after our Easter and November Masses. These social and spiritual outings are always well attended and are important dates in the calendar of the elderly in our parish.

The committee would like to take this opportunity to thank all those who make donations to the organisation as it is becoming increasingly difficult to fund our services, which are essential for the physical and emotional well-being of our most valued senior citizens.

Care of Aged Committee



*Maura
McMahon,
Mona
McNamara,
Eileen Joyce,
Paddy Ryan
(Baker).*



*Nuala
Coleman,
Molly Lyons,
Myrtle Shine.*

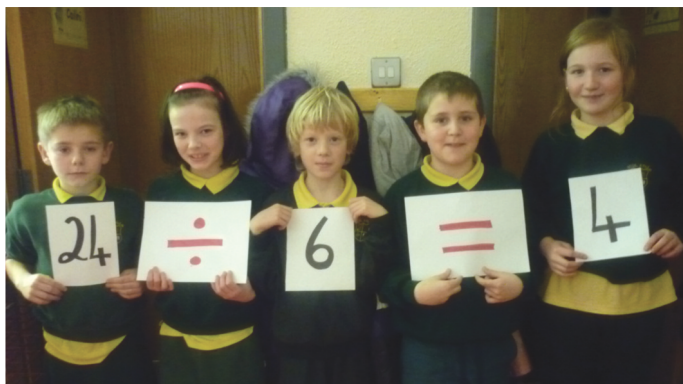


*Above: Care of
the Aged Walk
2011.*



*Paddy Rainsford,
Áine Rainsford,
Maureen Carey.*

Ahane National School



Left: Children enjoying "Maths Week"

Middle: Grandparents Day proved a huge success.

Below: Confirmation Class - Ahane N.S.





Graduation Night at Ahane National School.



Past pupils on Ahane Senior Hurling Team visit school.



First Communion Class - Ahane National School

Ahane N.S.

When given the opportunity to reflect on the past there are so many items worthy of a mention in An Caisleán. Each year is different and An Caisleán reflects our school activities over time.

One of our main objectives last year was to show people our school in action. This, in our opinion, is the greatest form of communication. It is more powerful than any policy document, whole school plan or newsletter. Most of our project had a home-school link or involved visitors to the school this year.

The school year of 2010-2011 was a year where one of our greatest achievements was having so many visitors in the school. As a centre for teaching and learning, the learning environment is central to creating positive conditions for learning. The staff and principal offered people the opportunity to “catch” the atmosphere of Ahane N.S. and “meet” the hidden curriculum in our school. Our memories for last year are filled with images of whole school projects and open days.

In summary, we had our Christmas concert, the 6th class raised funds for the Japanese tsunami appeal, we had Tree Week, Bring a Bulb Day, Seachtain na Gaeilge, Maths Week, Catholic School Week, Sports Day hosted by the Parent Association, Positive Behaviour Award (P.B.A.) ceremonies and Graduation Prayer Service with the 6th class pupils’ rendition of the song “Unwritten”. We were involved in lots of sports activities e.g. basketball, football, hurling, swimming and cross country running in the Allen’s field. Our school hurling team won the East Limerick Primary Schools League 5 Aside schools league for the second time running.

It is difficult to pick out our favourite project and the photos reflect some of our favourites.

Grandparent’s Day: Local neighbours and grandparents were invited for a coffee morning. Children prepared the halla and played traditional music. Some people were doing craft work such as knitting, making St. Bridget’s crosses and scone making took place with the grandparents and pupils. The halla was full with many stories being shared between the generations. Then the scones were baked in the staff room and enjoyed by all.

Our Rosebuds: We had a visit from the Limerick Rose, Bríd Richardson. Our pupils, Rosebuds from Ahane N.S. attended the Limerick Rose ceremony. The mothers of the Rosebuds raised money for the Special Olympics.

We had the Book Fair with reading groups from different classes enjoying reading together. Parents visited to spend time with their child at the bookfair.

Our Science Day was very special this year. It was exceptional for us as it involved many different aspects in the day. We launched our Science and Discovery Room and cut a red ribbon to open it. This room was inspired by a visit to the Salesian Infant School, Fernbank in Limerick City. Two class teachers visited the Salesian Infant school to see their good practice. We also cut the red ribbon on our mobile basketball unit that was purchased with funds donated by the 45 Card Player group who meet in the school once a week to play cards. Each class had class based science activities and parents and guardians visited children in their classrooms. The main event of Science Day was 5th and 6th class engaging with an engineering team visiting from West Point in the U.S.A. The U.S.A. flag was raised by two students who have U.S. citizenship. The flag was sent to us from one of our pupil's aunt living in North Carolina and the visiting cadets from West Point enjoyed this welcome. The cadets launched our newest Green Flag for us. Can you imagine the excitement when Cathy O'Halloran and the RTE camera man arrived in the middle of all of this. Cathy focussed on the learning aspect of maths and science in her interviews with pupils and visitors. We were downcast when we watched the 6 o'clock news on RTE and we didn't see any report about Science Day. Can you imagine how thrilled we were when we saw ourselves on the 9 o'clock news that evening. These projects gave parents and neighbours insight into our work in Ahane N.S.

McGILL'S GARDEN CENTRE

Castleconnell, Co. Limerick.

Tel: 061 377233 Fax 061 372118

Stockists of the following:

Paving - Patio Slabs - Fencing - Precast Concrete - Picnic Tables

Kennels - Pond Pumps - Pool Equipment - Garden Furniture

Large Selection of Fountains & Ornaments

Terracotta & Glazed Pots

Trees - Shrubs - Specimen Plants - Aquatic Plants - Heathers & Conifers

- PLANT HIRE AVAILABLE -

- TECHNICAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE -

Open 9.00 a.m. to 6.00 p.m. Weekdays

2.00 p.m. to 6.00 p.m. Sunday

THOMAS O'NEILL (ANIMAL FEEDS) LTD.

18 UPPER WILLIAM STREET, LIMERICK.

TEL: 061 415417

DEREEN, CASTLECONNELL. TEL: 061 372088

MOBILE: 087 6738687

STOCKISTS OF ALL ANIMAL FEEDS

DAIRY, BEEF, CALF, HORSE, POULTRY, PIG & DOG FOODS

TIMBER RECYCLED

ALSO STOCKIST OF FERTILIZER AND CEMENT

NOW OPEN IN DEREEN, CASTLECONNELL

L. SLOAN

B.Sc. (Pharm.) M.P.S.I.

Established 1985

Castleconnell Pharmacy

Co. Limerick. Tel. 061-377494 Fax: 061-377494

*All G.M.S. & Private Prescriptions Dispensed.
Toiletries, Baby Goods, Gifts, Photographic, Foot
Care.*

HEALTHCARE FOR ALL THE FAMILY

The Lost Errina

The OBriensbridge Community Group and the Lough Derg Branch of The Inland Waterways Association held a joint Boat Rally on Sat Feb 5th 2011 to highlight and reclaim the lost Errina Canal on the old Limerick To Killaloe Navigation. The withdrawal of navigational rights from the Errina Canal in the aftermath of the Shannon Scheme was at the time a very poor and ill-considered decision and could also be regarded as unjust and unfair.

The failure to provide a boat lock at Parteen Villa Weir at that time cut off and ended navigation rights to the upper Shannon for the villages of OBriensbridge Castleconnell and Clonlara and these villages became a backwater on the old Shannon System, as did the very famous and historic Errina Canal which became closed and neglected. This canal which at one time provided a gateway for the West of Ireland to the markets in England and which was also used during the famine years as an immigration route and has a wealth of heritage and is indeed one of the most historic canals in Ireland.



An Caisleán - The Castleconnell, Ahane, Montpelier Annual 2011

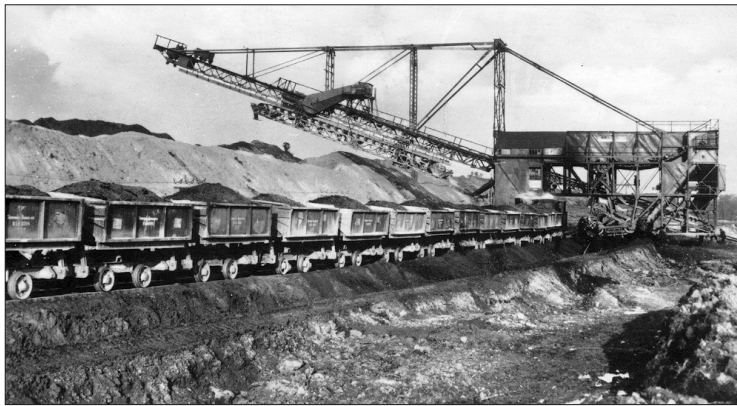
Our task now is to put the Errina Canal back on the agenda and fight a long-term campaign for its restoration in relation to tourism and recreational boating activities. Small villages like OBriensbridge and Clonlara are struggling for survival and sustainability and the reopening of the Errina would throw a lifeline to these communities. We will be asking bodies like Waterways Ireland, Shannon Development, Failte Ireland, ESB, University of Limerick and the Limerick and Clare County Councils to come on board and support our crusade.

We are also calling on Waterways Ireland to inter into dialogue with landowners and lease holders on the canal between Clonlara and the Lame Duck Pub with a view to opening up that section of walkway which would result in a walkway from Limerick City to OBriensbridge and what an amenity that would be.

The OBriensbridge Community Group recently hosted a group of canal enthusiasts IWPS from England who had successfully restored an old derelict canal system in the Bugsworth Peak Area near Manchester and their chairman Sir Ian Edgar having walked with his Group from Plassy to OBriensbridge along the Errina Canal was impressed and captivated by the canal and the old boat locks that were in perfect condition and to use his words “ I’m gob smacked with this old canal system which I feel would be a doddle to restore as the locks are in perfect condition and water levels are adequate, indeed I also feel it should be regarded as a National Treasure.

On Saturday Feb 5th 2011 members of both of the above Groups made their way to the Errina Canal where windfalls deadwood and other obstructions were removed in our first steps to open the canal to provide navigation for pleasure boats from the mouth of the canal, which is just upstream of Castleconnell Village to Errina Lock near Clonlara.

Mick Murtagh, Chairman



*Transporter
at O'Brien's
Bridge.*

Rivergrove House

B E D & B R E A K F A S T

*In lovely setting on the bank of the River Shannon.
Comfortable Home. Warm Welcome.
All rooms ensuite*



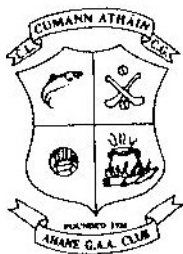
Enquiries: **Jean Newenham**

Rivergrove,
Castleconnell,
Co. Limerick.

Tel: 061 377107

email: rivergrovebnb@eircom.net

www.rivergrovehouse.com



AHANE G.A.A. CLUB DEVELOPMENT LOTTO

Win or Share €10,000 Every Month

Simply Match 4 Numbers (1-28)

We will also enter you in our Members' Draw
*1st Prize: €500; 2nd Prize: €300 and 6 Prizes of €100 Every
Month.*

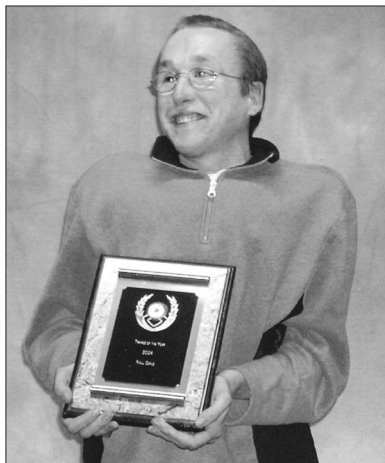
Tickets available from Committee or Shannon Stores

Niall Benedict Doyle

(1981-2010)

Niall was born on the 28th February 1981 in the Coombe Hospital in Dublin. He was a premature baby, and had a few health problems, but he recovered from these and when he was two years old, he was diagnosed with scoliosis (Lateral Curvature of the spine). Niall also had mild brain damage. He spent a lot of time in hospital in the early years and he did not like it. But he was a strong character and went through this difficult period without complaint.

He began his education in Cragg School, Birdhill, where he settled in very well and was treated the same as the other



children by teachers and pupils. He loved it there and had many happy times surrounded by pleasant companions and friendship which he treasured dearly. He then went to Castleconnell National School in 1989 and again settled in well as his brother and cousins attended the school also. Mrs. Twomey took him under her wing, and then there came a time when she could not assist in his progress any longer, so she gave us information on Catherine McCauley School in Limerick City. We were lucky to get Niall accepted in the school. He started attending there in 1991, and with the style of teaching Niall improved more and more. In 1999 he was accepted to the Vocational Training Centre, Dooradoyle and there he was given a permanent position in the Garden Centre, a position which he thoroughly enjoyed and which helped him to make more friends with his own inimitable quality of engaging so well with people.

Niall's grandparents were Paddy and Betty Joyce, Stradbally. When Niall was little, my Dad would spend ages rubbing in cod liver oil to his joints to help loosen them and it must have helped, because he did not have any problem with his joints later on. My Mam would wrap him in a blanket and sing to him as she rocked him, and when he was older he could remember those special times.

He was always happy visiting his aunts and uncles in Stradbally. Eileen he would phone to discuss rugby, Pauline a keen Liverpool supporter, he would

take a mischievous pleasure in informing her of a Manchester United victory, Kit he would contact to discuss any problems he might have, Betty, if he was afraid or apprehensive of anything or anyone. He totally trusted that Betty would protect him at all costs. He would contact Tina to discuss television programmes they might have been watching and Marian if Manchester United won or lost, as she would rejoice in the win or console him if they lost.

We owned the Spa Tavern, now Charcos in Castleconnell, and we spent a lot of time there. Niall loved going to his cousins, the Byrnes' in Scanlan Park and he got to know all the neighbours there, the same in Auntie Betty's in St Patrick's Villas. He loved to visit everybody's house, he would just drop in and everybody made him so welcome, I don't think they realise how much they contributed to his sense of belonging, to his feeling of security which he needed and which was available in abundance in their loving circle.

Niall's brother, Craig, and his cousins Sean and Kevin Byrnes played for Lisnagry under 13 soccer team and the coaches, John Coleman, Frankie Ryan, Liam Sheppard and Tolla Sheehan together with the players really included Niall in all aspects of the Club. He loved all sports and that was a very happy time in his life.

He also loved old films and music, and I think he would have liked to have lived back in those times as he felt it was a safer world to live in. Niall was both man and boy within his own endearing personality, and when the two clashed it caused him so much frustration. He wanted to do all the things his brothers could do, drive a car, play rugby, get married. His ambitions were to coach the All Blacks and marry Sharon from Eastenders! As time went on he accepted that some things would not happen, so he learnt to adjust. He could not play rugby with a team, so every year, a week before the All Ireland League, he would get out his folder and start picking his team, and every Saturday at two thirty p.m. he would go out into our garden and play his match. His team ALWAYS won, and that was his way of being involved in the sport.

In 2005 we had a break-in at our home and that changed Niall's life, he was afraid all the time. He always used to walk to work, and he stopped doing that. He stopped going out to play his matches, and gradually he stopped having any exercise. He never really got back to his happy self.

We lost Niall on the 23rd October, 2010. He was twenty nine years old and we, his family, feel so blessed to have known him.

Nothing loved is ever lost, and he was loved so much.

Delia Joyce



PHONE: 061 377192

www.mcdermottbutchers.ie

email: tony@mcdermottbutchers.ie

*For all your beef, pork, lamb & bacon
And fresh vegetable requirements*

Whisp's

Hair Salon

Castle Street

Castleconnell, Co. Limerick.

Telephone: 061 377063

Late Night Opening by Appointment

- Celebrating 22 years in Castleconnell -

Worthies of Thomond

Standish Hayes O'Grady

Standish Hayes O'Grady, greatest of modern Irish scholars, was born at Castleconnell in the year 1832. Son to Admiral O'Grady, nephew to the first Viscount Guillamore, educated at Rugby and Trinity College, O'Grady's love of the Irish language conquered all other influences and he spent his youth wandering the Limerick countryside collecting folk tales and customs, the friend of O'Curry, O'Donovan and O'Longan. His apprenticeship stood him in good stead when he came to edit his most famous work, the "Silva Gadelica" in which he translates the Irish tales into an English peculiarly his own but also peculiarly suited to the Irish originals.

In his introduction to this work, O'Grady writes: "Silva Gadelica is far from being exclusively or even primarily designed for the omniscient, impeccable, leviathans of science that head-long sound the linguistic ocean to the most horrid depths, and, in the intervals of ramming each other, ply their flukes on such audacious fry as even on the mere surface will venture within their danger".

He was hard on the anti-Irish writers, and of Richard Stanyhurst, the 16th century Dublin-born slanderer of Ireland, he writes: "Better for him had he tarried with the wild men that never harmed him, or in some of the lands which he visited after them; when he returned his own highly civilized countrymen rewarded his John Bullism with a degree higher than any he had taken at Oxford; in fact, on the 1st of December 1581, they hanged and quartered him".

O'Grady was that most unusual mixture, a scholar and humourist. While he never allowed his humour to destroy his scholarship, there was no early text, no matter how difficult, that he could not shed light on with his light "Half Latin, half early English phraseology, subtly inverted and highly romanised".

He was often mixed up with his more popular kinsman, Standish O'Grady, the novelist, author of "The Coming of Cuchulainn," etc. This annoyed him and he said of it: "Let me intimate since I am often tantalised by having a kinsman's good work attributed to myself, that my trade mark, without which no goods are genuine, is either as on the title page of this book, or thus in full STANDISH HAYES O'GRADY".

Besides the "Silva Gadelica, which appeared in 1892, O'Grady edited many other Irish texts; his first, an edition of Donnadh Ruadh MacConmara, the

Cratloe poet, being written when he was only 21. Next to the Silva, his most important work was the catalogue of Irish Manuscripts in the British Museum. This, however, he never completed, for having a row with the Museum authorities, he broke off in the middle of a sentence and never returned to the work.

In spite of all his work, O'Grady's life was not completely devoted to Irish scholarship, and he spent 30 years of his younger life in California as a civil engineer. He died at Hale, Cheshire, in 1915. His loss to Irish literature was great and Douglas Hyde described him as "a brilliant and correct speaker of Irish, as witty in that language as he was in English," and Eleanor Hull as "the last of the grand old scholars of Ireland."

By Robert Herbert

Best Wishes to "An Caisleán" from

Herbert's Bar

Sallymount, Castleconnell
Tel: 061 377201

An Caisleán - The Castleconnell, Ahane, Montpelier Annual 2011

The Park Bench

An old man lying in the park
People walked by and dogs they did bark
Some children stared, but only for a while
Teenagers registered a ghost of a smile
He had drank too much it was plain to see
A discarded bottle, sitting at his knee
No one cares, he's only a bum
Smelling of cider and whiskey and rum
A sad reflection, they all walk past
His breathing is heavy, it could be his last
Not my problem one or two might say
The police should move him-take him away
He has seen better days with his tattered old coat
But he's somebody's son, they forget when they gloat
Eventually he stirred, scratched and looked up
The ragged appearance, he was down on his luck
He now started begging, people ran on
By mid-afternoon, he was long since gone
Will he come back, no one knows
They sincerely hope not, did you see those clothes?
Everything fine now, the park's looking great
Walkers, joggers and kids on a date
The old man forgotten, the park bench now clean
But same time tomorrow, that remains to be seen!

Brendan Murphy

Best Wishes to "An Caisleán"
From
Bonner's Bar
O'Brien's Bridge

The bar with the personal touch
For good drinks and comfort



**NEW SERVICE NOW AVAILABLE:
GIVE YOUR CHILDS CARER A BREAK**

**Some parents have private childcare
arrangements and this service may suit them**

This service is available from 2.00pm to 6.00pm each
afternoon. Carer could drop child to crèche at 2.00pm
and parent could collect child on way home up to

6.00pm. Highest quality childcare from as little as €3.25 per hour for child over one.
Available on a daily or weekly basis.

Do not miss out Limited Places Available

- Wilmot's Childcare has excellent facilities including a special fitted out fun room with padded floors and walls. The children love their time in this indoor play centre.
- There is a large external play area which is fitted out with modern play equipment and has a large section covered so that children can play outside on wet days.

**Full time, part time, sessional and after school care available. Children aged 3
months to 12 years**

Contact : Rosemary Wilmot – Tel 061-358166 / 087-2471663

E-mail: rosemarywilmot@hotmail.com www.wilmotschildcare.ie

Wilmots Childcare, Annacotty Business Park, Annacotty, Co. Limerick.

SAVING THE HAY

By Mary A. Moloney

*Ye have been fresh and green,
Ye have been filled with flowers,
And ye the walks have been
Where maids have spent their hours.*

“To Meadows” by Robert Herrick (1591-1674)

Many years have passed since my father and I saved the hay together in “Whistlers Field” and “Ballyvarra” but the memories come flooding back whenever a lawn or grass is cut nearby. That freshness in the air is all it takes to remind me of days gone by when in March my father would “fence off” Whistler’s (two fields now more commonly known to local readers as Annacotty Business Park) and “Ballyvarra” two fields located in Grange which served as meadows for many generations of Ryan Farmers, Connell’s and Moloney’s.

Each spring, my father would load the horse and cart, later the tractor and “box” with farmyard manure to fertilize the fields, a process known colloquially as “top-dressing”. As I grew older, I helped my Dad with this work and I must admit I enjoyed being out and about in the fresh air, during the Easter holidays or earlier, spreading those loads as evenly as possible around the fields. We were always joined by Tom Mc Namara who willingly gave us a helping hand, because truth be told it was back breaking work. We used pitch forks, four pronged forks breaking down each fork full to the smallest possible size in order that it would decompose over the land to improve the quality of the crop. Later fertilizer known as 10.10.20 became the norm. This was ordered from Annacotty creamery and Billy Ber (Birmingham) along with his assistants would deliver the fertilizer to the end of our driveway. From there, my father (who by the mid seventies) had acquired a tractor and spreader would empty the bags of fertilizer into the spreader and happily drive his tractor around the fields thus ensuring an ample supply of fodder for the cows later in the year. By this time, Ferenka – a fore runner to Annacotty Business Park had been built and was working, so the Fir Field became a meadow as did part of the Back Field and later the Road Field.

Time would pass by swiftly and as mid-summer arrived, it was time to cut the hay. In my younger days in the 1960’s, Martin Hayes, again from

Annacotty creamery would cut the hay for the farmers of the parish. Later, as we and many other farmers became self-sufficient, Dad cut the hay with his own tractor and mowing machine. When the hay was cut, then the laborious work of “saving the hay” began. Farmers are always dependent on the weather, so living in a rural community it was a common occurrence that each Sunday, the priest would pray for fine weather. Thankfully, we were often answered in the affirmative and all went well. Plenty of sunshine was necessary to dry the cut grass, it would turn yellow and become crisp, crunchy and brittle to the touch. Saving the hay meant having it so dry of moisture that it could be stored in airless conditions for months on end. Should any moisture remain in the crop when it was finally stored in the hay barn, it would decompose producing heat and steam, the aroma of which would be noted from afar. It rotted the hay and left a covering of dust particles on that which remained. This dust was deadly to both man and beast alike if breathed in. Farmer’s Lung was a familiar term for a lung disease that resulted in serious illness or even death for those who worked with incorrectly saved hay.

But back to saving the hay! When the weather was sunny and fine, it took only a few hours for the hay to dry. Then Tom Mc (as he was affectionately known) my uncles and my father would “turn the hay” so that the underside would dry out too. This was done by the use of a fork or later Dad was able to do it alone with a hay turner. If the weather became wet, which invariably happened, it was necessary to keep a constant look out for a couple of dry hours and the turning might have to be done many times. When the hay was suitably dry, the next procedure was to get it gathered into “cocks” I remember my Dad sitting upon the rake gathering the hay to Tom, my uncles and my mother who working in two’s gathered the hay into a circular shape known as a pike. Tom usually stood in the centre of the circle, placing layers of hay on the ground, also in a circular fashion in order to make the “butt” of the pike. They then continued to place layers on top of each other, all the time lessening the perimeters of the layers so that a narrow rounded top would be formed. This pike of hay was approximately six to seven feet in height. This work continued for the day until the meadow was saved.

When we were saving the hay in Ballyvarra, my mother and I would go up the railway to the meadow (not advisable dear reader) as that was a shortcut from our home. She brought a white tin can of tea with freshly made brown scones, butter and strawberry jam, as well as tarts and fruitcake to feed the hungry who had worked so hard in the meadow all day. I absolutely loved the taste of tea in the meadow, there is something about it, that only experiencing it will allow you to fully appreciate it.

It was then time to “pull the butt”. This meant the side of the pikes of hay would be brushed or combed down with a rake, thereby creating an edge all around the bottom for the rain to drain away. A sugán would be twisted and drawn over each pike of hay ensuring their safety from the elements, especially the wind. The pikes of hay remained in on the meadow for approximately two months. Then it was time to “bring home the hay”.

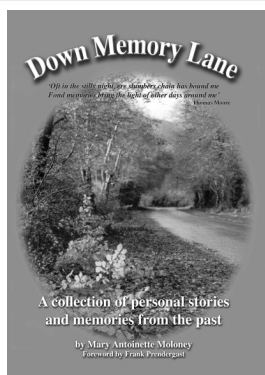
Dad brought home the hay on a horse and float, later a tractor and float. Again fine weather was a necessity. The hay was stored in the hay barn. Again, friends and neighbours were called upon to help for this day’s work. As many as three or four men would be piking the hay into the shed in years gone by, not counting my mother who also helped when the need arose. Though, unfortunately for her she succumbed to the aforementioned Farmer’s Lung thus ending her career in the meadow. Instead, she prepared a good hearty meal for the men and ensured they were well fed with potatoes, bacon and cabbage on the day. Fresh white loaves were purchased from Ryan’s shop in Annacotty that day too along with strawberry jam or home baked tarts for dessert and ham and tomatoes for tea.

Time passes as it always does and piking and saving the hay made way for Timmy Collins and his baler. There was no need for the friends and neighbours then, as Dad and I could put the bales together ourselves. Dad brought them to the barn and we both stored them there together ensuring the cows had a good supply of fodder for the winter. Of course, the cows did not depend totally on hay, they had an ample supply of dairy nuts, pulp, barley and fine meal as well, all delivered from Annacotty Creamery too. But that’s another story!



***Saving the
hay - May
1992.***

*L/R: Bill Stone,
John Herbert,
Matty Hartigan,
Carmac Hassett,
Diarmuid
Herbert, Eamon
Coffey, Murty
Hourigan,
Johnny Hassett,
Seamus Hassett.
(Sam the dog)*



Down Memory Lane - A Collection of Personal Stories and Memories from the Past has been published by Mary A. Moloney and is a substantial volume of 320 pages, containing over one hundred interviews with people from diverse backgrounds in the Mid-West of Ireland, covering stories going back over a century. With the foreword written by Frank Prendergast, former Mayor of Limerick, the book contains narratives from Nora Keane and Edwina McKenzie (two survivors of the ill-fated Titanic). These are prominently featured along with farming life, stories of creameries, threshing and fair days, History and Politics in the Making; Overseas Connections stretching to the Congo, and elsewhere in Africa, Poland, Australia as well as the UK and USA etc; Personal Stories, Religious Practice and Devotion, stories of school days, work and sport are contained in this compendium of essays and memories which is an essential collection for anyone remotely interested in local and social history.

Down Memory Lane is available at a very reasonably priced €15.00 (incl. P&P) from the author Mary A. Moloney, Clyduff, Lisnagry, Co. Limerick and from shops in the Annacotty/Castleconnell/Ahane area for just €12.99.

● John Hassett ● DOMESTIC APPLIANCE REPAIRS

Service Agent for:
SIEMENS - NEFF - WHIRLPOOL
"Tigín", Lisnagry, Co. Limerick, Ireland.

Tel: 061 330868 Mobile: 087 2638220 Fax: 061 330868
Email: jhdar@iol.ie

*Repairs to Washing Machines, Dishwashers, Tumbledryers,
Cookers, Fridges & Freezers.*

Met Eireann Climatological Service in Castleconnell

By John Hyland

I'm the Met Eireann Climatological Observer for the Castleconnell area and I would like to tell you about the service. The following tells you about the Stevenson Screen and the various instruments used.

Stevenson Screen: This is like a bee hive on stilts. It is painted white and mounted on a stand so that the bulbs of the dry and wet bulb thermometers (which are mounted vertically) are 1.25 m above ground. The thermometers used to determine air temperature, humidity and the maximum and minimum air temperatures are exposed in the Screen. It is designed to shield the thermometers from precipitation and radiation while at the same time allowing free passage of air. This is achieved by constructing the screen with louvered sides and door (facing northwards); a double roof with an air space between the inner and outer components and a floor consisting of three partially overlapping boards separated by an air space. This Screen was invented by the father of well-known novelist Robert Louis Stevenson.

Thermometers

Dry Bulb is exposed "as it stands" and indicates the temperature of the air at the time of reading. The **Wet Bulb** is kept constantly moist by a muslin covering, the end of which dips into a reservoir of water. This wet bulb thermometer indicates the "temperature of evaporation" which, in normal circumstances, is lower than the air temperature. The difference between the dry bulb and the wet bulb readings is known as the "wet bulb depression". From the dry and wet bulb readings, relative humidity and vapour pressure can be obtained.

Maximum Thermometer is installed in the screen upon the clips on the thermometer supports, inclined at an angle of 2 degrees to the horizontal with the bulb slightly below the stem.

Minimum Thermometer is installed in the screen upon clips underneath maximum thermometer and records the lowest air temperature over 24 hours.

Grass Minimum Thermometer is similar to minimum thermometer used in the screen. It is used to record the lowest temperature reached during the night over short grass exposed to the sky. The thermometer is laid on two Y-shaped pegs. The thermometer is set by tilting the bulb above the stem

so the index runs down the bore until it comes to the meniscus.

Soil Thermometers at 50mm, 100mm and 200mm. These thermometers are unmounted and unsheathed with a bend in the stem between the bulb and the lowest graduation. The bend allows the bulb to be at 50, 100 or 200mm when the vertical part of the stem is sunk into the ground. The thermometers are read without being disturbed from their position in the soil.

Rain Gauge A rain gauge consists of funnel, a glass collecting bottle and a copper can. The glass collecting bottle is placed inside the copper can and the can is sunk into the ground. The rain falls into the funnel and collects in the glass jar. The gauge has a measuring cylinder which measures the amount of water collected in the glass jar in millimetres.

All readings are taken at 0900 hours and are sent monthly to Met Eireann in Glasnevin on a monthly return form. Daily rainfall readings are sent daily by e-mail or by text message.

Able Assistance 

24 HOUR RECOVERY SPECIALIST

Contact:
Paul O'Connell

Able Assistance
Castlemungret
Dock Road
Limerick

087 - 6120194

24 Hour Service

**SECURE STORAGE FACILITY
24 HOUR MONITORED CCTV
NATIONWIDE 24HR RECOVERY**

Little Nellie of Holy God

Many people have never heard of Little Nellie of Holy God or her influence on the Catholic Church's practice of children receiving their First Holy Communion at around the age of seven. Her name was often mentioned in our family though details were very sketchy. All we knew was that she died as a child not long after her First Holy Communion.

Little Nellie was born in Waterford Barracks in 1903, where her father was a soldier. She was christened Ellen and called Nellie, a family name. Nellie was described as having a physical disability in her back and leg that caused difficulty in walking. In spite of this her father later said, that from the age of two, Nellie insisted on walking with him to Mass chattering on the way about Holy God. In 1905, the Organ family moved to Spike Island in Co Cork. Nellie's mother had been in poor health for some years and died on Spike Island in 1907. After her mother's death, Nellie and her sister Mary were sent to the Good Shepherd Convent in Cork while her two brothers were sent to Upton. When Nellie arrived in Cork, she was already very ill from consumption in addition to her disability. Nellie loved music and enjoyed listening to the organ in the church. She was, according to reports, well able to stand up for herself and stood up to the nuns on many occasions (this must have taken huge courage from a physically weak four year old child). Soon Nellie was too sick to leave her bed. She constantly spoke to Jesus and said He was in the room with her. She asked to receive Holy Communion although at that time children had to be at least twelve years old before receiving the sacrament. She kept begging the nuns for Holy Communion until eventually a priest asked permission from the Bishop of Cork to give Nellie the Sacred Host at the age of four. The Bishop gave consent and Nellie received her First Holy Communion in December 1907. Nellie was anointed a few days later as she was very ill by this time. She died after tremendous suffering in February 1908. She was buried in St Joseph's Cemetery in Cork.

After her death, many people were interested in Nellie's story and claims were made that she had cured people of their illnesses. As the stories of Nellie spread and the child became celebrated in Ireland, it was decided to reinter her body in the Good Shepherd Cemetery attached to the convent. It is claimed that when her grave was opened in September 1909, her body had not decayed. It is reported that her hair had grown longer and her hands were still flexible. Pope Pious X asked for a relic of Nellie. A Court of Enquiry was opened as a first step towards possible canonisation. However,

Pope Pious died before this was completed.

I found all this fascinating as it confirmed the existence of Little Nellie of Holy God, but what was her relationship to the Hogg family? When I was a child my father, Seamus Hogg, told us that we should always remember Little Nellie of Holy God and ask her to pray for us as we were related to her, through my paternal grandmother, Julia Flavin Hogg, who had been born in Portlaw, Co. Waterford.

Last year I decided to visit the birthplace of my grandmother, Julia. Using the 1901 census as a starting point, my research discovered that Julia's mother's maiden name was Ahearne. On the side of the church in Portlaw, there is a plaque dedicated to little Nellie of Holy God and it also contained the information that her parents William Organ and Mary Ahearne had married in that church in 1896. While there, I met Ann McCarthy who was the last living relative of little Nellie in the area. She told me that her grandfather, David Flavin and Little Nellie were first cousins as their mothers were sisters. David and Julia Flavin (my grandmother) were brother and sister, and so Julia and Little Nellie were also first cousins. Julia had later married my grandfather, Tom Hogg and lived in Castleconnell.

The story told by my father was true and now, suddenly there are many living relatives of Little Nellie of Holy God!

Betty Hogg Noonan, April 2011

Eamonn Whelan

Gardenhill, Castleconnell

Electrical Contractor

R.E.C.I. Registered

***For all Domestic, Industrial,
Commercial & Agricultural Installations***

Phone: 087 2326279

How much is that in old money?

After dealing for centuries in pounds, shillings and pence. Monday, February 15th, 1971, 40 years ago, became variously known as Decimal Day, Decimalisation Day and D-Day, when Ireland and the UK decimalised their historical currencies. Although both currencies were separate, Irish Pounds and British Pounds – they were tied to each other at a fixed 1-1 exchange rate.

Under the old currency the pound was made up of 240d (pence). Under the new currency, it was divided into 100 pence. Interestingly, the face value of Maundy money was instead maintained and effectively increased the value of all coins by a factor 2.4 per cent as they continued to be legal tender. The changeover was expected to take several months to take effect, but shopkeepers found that they could not accommodate the old and new coins in cash registers so they quickly bagged the old coins and lodged them in the bank.

Forty years on, Ray Cleere reflects on the introduction of decimalisation. They were never re-issued and the new system was effective within a couple of weeks.

A public information campaign which had run over the two previous years and the willingness of a young population to embrace the change also helped. In general, elderly people had more difficulty adapting and the phrase “How much is that in old money?” became a metaphor for someone who could not make the change to other new systems, for example the metric system of weights which was adapted many years later.

In the UK, consideration was given to having a new “decimal pound” worth ten shillings in the old currency which resulted in the “decimal penny” being worth only slightly more than the old penny. In the event, it was decided that Pound Sterling’s importance as reserve currency meant that the Pound should remain unchanged. The Irish Pound (English) or Punt Éireannach (Irish) was the currency of the Republic of Ireland until 2002. Its ISO 4217 code was IEP, and the usual notation was the prefix £ (or IR£ where confusion might have arisen with the pound sterling or other pounds).

Nicknamed a “quid” the Irish pound was superseded by the euro on January 1, 1999, when the Irish pound legally became a subdivision of the euro. The euro currency did not begin circulation until three years later on January 1, 2002.

Hands

Two hours from womb
first saw two tiny hands
Tiny yes, but fingers long.
A bit blue
and weathered from the journey.

Unbidden, little hands stretch
above head for comfort.
Grip a finger like a vice
or clench fists tight
guarding first treasures - little balls of wool.

Spoon cast aside, hands favoured,
chin adorned with gooey food
some reaches mouth.
Same chubby hands with chubby crayons
can create masterpieces.

Hands that explore water, mud and soil
and slippery snails all sizes,
proudly transformed,
join angelically at First Communion time.

Nine now, with multi coloured finger nails,
hands glide over tin whistle making music,
and speeds with skill across keyboard
educating Gran

Bless these busy innocent hands
as they eagerly reach
into the unknown. unknown.

Betty Tuohy

Hands

Those tiny hands so perfectly formed
With little pearly nails
Brought tears of joy and wonderment
To all on your birth day.

That little boy, tearful and brave
Off to his first day at school
Bag on back, all shining bright
Hand clutching mine, his touch, my delight.

You've grown up, you've grown up, oh! so fast
Life's an adventure with so many tasks
Hands making Lego, hands catching ball
Hands doing arts and crafts, no trouble at all.

And now you've moved into your teens
Life is a wonder, so many dreams
Fingers kept busy, hands on the go
With keyboards, mobile and your Nintendo

A young man now, with sights set afar
Your world is an open door
Handshakes are over, hands wave goodbye
Off on your adventures, adieu my little boy.

Kay Hickey

Pat Carey

Electrical Contractor

Castleconnell, Co. Limerick. Phone 061 377013

Mobile: 087-2769451

- For All Your Electrical Work -

*Renovating your existing kitchen or getting a new one?
I will chase walls, lay cables, plaster and leave ready for
tiling.*

O'Sullivan's

Chapel Hill, Castleconnell

COAL, GAS, BRIQUETTES, SINGLES

SLACK, BLOCKS

DAILY DELIVERIES

Phone 061 377338

The Mount Shannon Catalogue 1888

In order to understand the interest ... from a Georgian point of view ... of the document that follows, it is necessary to know a little about the house and its inhabitants throughout the century preceding the sale. John Fitzgibbon, first Earl of Clare, bought this extensive property in the last quarter of the 18th century. An extremely successful barrister, like his father before him, he played a most prominent part in Henry Grattan's Ireland, personal friends in the early days of the Patriot party, political enemies when Clare, as Chancellor and virtual dictator of Ireland, saw no alternative to his country's miseries save the Act of Union of 1800. This abolished his own office, and two years later he was dead, perhaps of exhaustion, perhaps



The 2nd Earl of Clare

of heartbreak. He had, as an ex-Chancellor, been given a handsome pension, a two-life pension so that the 2nd Earl, his elder son was also well provided for by the United Kingdom Exchequer. Meanwhile the 1st Earl, in his lifetime had fully furnished Mount Shannon, which he also enlarged, afforested and planted until it became virtually a self-supporting village, a community that grew its own food and ultimately, even had its own gas plant. It may be assumed that most of the furniture and furnishings here listed were his.

The 2nd Earl, who died in 1851, was a close friend of Byron's. It was of him that Byron wrote the poem "Friend of my Youth" and "When we were Harrow boys together". He, too, was in public service, being Governor of Bombay and later Bengal in the years before the Mutiny. From him date the Oriental acquisitions here listed, and many of the paintings, for he travelled extensively in Europe too. His brief marriage produced no

children, and the title passed to his brother. It was the 2nd Earl who added the portico of columns to Mount Shannon, and the picture reproduced is the architect Lewis Wyatt's watercolour made in 1813, showing what he proposed to build. The ruin standing to this day shows that this is precisely what he did in fact build.

The 3rd Earl, Richard Hobart, inherited but had no pension. In 1851 the effects of the Famine were at their very worst. We have some evidence of his endeavours as Lord Lieutenant of Limerick intervening with the authorities for help to his starving county and later, of his helping financially those who wished to emigrate. He had been a professional soldier: there is little evidence that he was capable of dealing with the appalling conditions that then confronted the owner of a large Irish estate. The death of his only son and heir, in the Charge of the Light Brigade at the Battle of Balaclava, 1854, must have further embittered him. It is unlikely that he bought much for Mount Shannon, even had he needed to do so for a luxuriously furnished house. He died in 1880, that is to say a mere eight years before this sale.

His will would seem to have been a disaster. Of his three daughters, the two eldest became his co-heiresses. Louisa had married a younger son of the 16th Viscount Dillon, who took her name since she inherited the property. Her sister, Lady Florence, married the Baron Kimberley, who became the first Earl of that title. She inherited not only the Fitzgibbon silver ... it will be noted that there is none in this catalogue, ... but it also seems the greater part of the liquidity attached to the estate, or what remained thereof.

What followed, and so rapidly, is obvious. The Land War was raging: there were no rents. The trees were cut down for cash. Many pictures must have been sold. The property was mortgaged and then money was borrowed at a very high rate of interest. Very soon the forced sale took place, apparently the first of its size in Ireland. This is what was sold, or at least put up for sale, for fragments remained, but only fragments. And what was sold were, with exceptions such as the modern bathroom, essentially the contents of a large Georgian country house.

Mount Shannon contained a fully furnished Oratory

A photostat of the sale Catalogue can be obtained on loan from the Irish Georgian Society; it gives a complete picture of the furnishings of an eighteenth century house. There follow two short excerpts:

"The furnishing of Mount Shannon, was commenced about one hundred years since at a time when design, material, and finish was a point of excellence never since excelled, insomuch that art productions of that date have remained the governing style to the present time. Many of these early effects are included in the present sale.

The Indian Items were brought home by John Fitzgibbon, 2nd Earl of Clare, some time Governor of the Bengal Presidency, and it may be accepted that the Japanese and Lacquered Wardrobes, Ivory and Pearl work, with all the very fine old Oriental China, in great variety, Josses, &c., have been in Mount-Shannon ever since. In addition there are some very fine old Buhl, Marquetrie, Pacquetrie Cabinets, Armoires, Tables, Secretaires, a clock of the Louis Quatorze period, Bronze Figures a cheval, large Oriental China Vases, Marble and Seagliola pedestals, with some Statuary Busts of the family, also rarely Carved Vases of White Marble.

The Drawing and Morning Rooms Furniture is mostly Louis Quatorze carved, gilt and covered, ensuite with draperies, in light green figured Satin. The Carpets through the House are mainly Turkey of large size. The Library and Dining Rooms effects, are covered in green morocco, the Curtains red figured Satin, and heavy corded Crimson Silk.

The Ceiling Lustres are mostly parcel gilt; rarely chased and of beautiful workmanship.

The Family Paintings are Chef Douvres, by the first artist of the period, when they were taken, some of the Paintings, were placed in the house about 1790, and will afford the connoisseur and speculator a good chance of getting a valuable Old Master on good terms. There are also some replicas from the Dresden gallery. Most of these have been nearly a century in the Fitzgibbon Family, at Mount Shannon. To these may be added,

A Noble Full length Portrait of
His Grace, Arthur, Duke of Wellington
Painted by Sir Thomas Lawrence

It is said to have been a present from the great warrior, and is eminently suited for a public gallery or institution.

In the Morning Room, the hours and Mythological Water Colour drawings, superbly framed, after Rapheal, and Julio Romano, are in themselves an exhibition of fine art, and equally refined taste, and have been cited, as without equal in this country. There are also some beautiful specimens of Sevre, old Crown Derby, Dresden and rare old Worcester china, and the Auctioneer believes there is ample inducement for amateurs and collectors to attend the sale, even from distances. The splendid collection of Table and House Linen is specially worthy of notice."

'Mrs McMahon, from Thomas Street, Limerick, Caterer to the Royal Limerick County Regiment, will be in attendance to supply Refreshments of all kinds, except Wines and Spirits.'

NOTICE
To Parties Attending the Auction
At
MOUNT SHANNON HOUSE
LISNAGRY, COUNTY LIMERICK

There are three Hotels in Castle-Connell, which is one mile distant by road or rail. Private furnished apartments may be obtained there.

Mount-Shannon House is about 4 miles from the City of Limerick by road, and Lisnagry Railway Station is just outside the demesne wall. The train leaves Limerick every morning at 10.45, in good time.

Parties coming from Dublin or North of Roscrea Junction, on the G.S. and Western Railway, should come via Nenagh, and save 13 miles and much time.

Killaloe on the Upper Shannon, is also connected with suitable access to Lisnagry by rail.

Catalogues (2000 lots), will be charged One Shilling and Postage, only. Admission for one or the seven days Sale, One Shilling also, but this latter sum will be returned in all instances to a purchaser.

The Lisnagry Gate, opposite the School-house and Post Office, is the nearest and only approach, whether for attending the Auction, or for Removing the purchases.

By order,
JOHN BERNAL, Auctioneer,
p pro The Receiver.

Kingfisher Lodge - Guerin's Bar

Coolbawn, Castleconnell. Tel/Fax: 061 377407

It has been occasionally said "*it's the best pub in the World*"

(Lord Massey 1877)

Also providing Fishing Permits, Hiring & Supplying Rods etc.,
Boats, Ghillies. All information relative to fishing.

Traditional Music Wednesday Nights 9.30

MBS Eng Ltd.

STAINLESS STEEL FABRICATION

*Fabrication of Tables
Sink Units, Bain Maries,
Chill Units, Urinals,
Canopies, Shelving etc.*

**Fort Henry Business Park
Ballina, Killaloe, Co. Clare.**

Telephone: 061 374650 Fax: 061 374652

Mobile: Matt Byrnes 086 2543979



Irish harp

CENTRE & MUSIC SCHOOL

MUSIC SCHOOL

- **YEAR** round tuition in over 20 different instruments including Junior and Leaving Certificate by qualified and experienced teachers.
- **FRENCH ORAL** for Junior & Leaving Certificate & Adults
- **QUAVERS** music making for 5-7 year olds.
- **WIDE RANGE OF GROUP MUSIC MAKING ACTIVITIES INCLUDING:** Children's Choir, Trad. Band, Woodwind Group.
- **EXAMINATIONS** for International Boards from Beginner to Diploma/Degree Level
- **REGULAR WORKSHOPS & HARP SUMMER SCHOOLS PROGRAMMES**

**Irish Harp Centre & Music School, Castleconnell,
Co. Limerick. Tel. 061 372777**

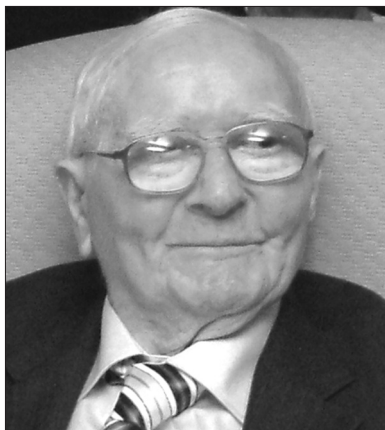
www.irishmusiccollege.com info@irishharpcentre.com

IAMS, EMU & ISM MEMBERS

JIMMY BUTLER COFFEY

- A GENTLEMAN AND HURLING LEGEND

The death occurred on Wednesday 29th of December, 2010 at Millbrae Lodge Nursing Home, Newport of former Tipperary All-Ireland Hurling Medalist, Jimmy Butler Coffey in his 102nd year. He died very peacefully, surrounded by his loving family. Jimmy was born in Church Lane, Newport, Co. Tipperary on October 26th, 1909. He was the second youngest in a family of eight, four boys and four girls. He celebrated his 100th birthday with a big party which was attended by over 300 guests in Millbrae Lodge nursing home in Newport on October Bank Holiday Monday, October 27th, 2009, with special guest being Michael O Muircheartaigh.



In those years in between, he gave sterling service to the GAA in Tipperary and Limerick, both as a player, trainer, mentor and selector.

The question is often asked as to how Jimmy Coffey got the nickname 'Butler'. Well, the story goes as follows.

Coffey's was a cuardaicht house where the neighbours gathered in the evenings. Jimmy's mother sat under the kitchen lamp and read the papers as all the men sat around the fire. On one occasion Jimmy and his younger brother, Jack, were play-acting and upsetting the people present. They were ordered outside and, as they rose, Jack hit his brother in the face. As Jimmy complained he sounded as if he was talking through his nose. One of the men at the fireside remarked that he spoke like Phil Butler, agent of the local landlord. Butler was noted for his nasal voice. From that moment Jimmy, who was only five or six years of age at the time, became known in Newport as 'Butler' Coffey.

Jimmy and his brothers Mick and Jack were key figures on the Newport teams in the halycon days of hurling in the parish. All three wore the County colours in one grade or other and between them held All-Ireland medals in Minor, Junior and Senior. The three brothers were all members of the Tipperary Senior panel beaten by Limerick in the Munster Championship in 1935.

A member of the County Minor side for three successive years, Jimmy (even though he was only a few weeks short of his 21st birthday) won an All-Ireland Minor medal with Tipperary in 1930, defeating Kilkenny in the final, in the

company of his brother Jack and other clubmates Jimmy Close and Mick Boland. The minor age was nineteen at the time, and Jimmy remembers the goalkeeper having his legs shaved the morning of the All-Ireland Final.

He made his Senior debut with Tipp in 1931. It was a lean period for the County's Senior Hurling Team as Limerick dominated the Munster Championship throughout the 30's, but their monopoly was ended in 1937 when Jimmy, playing with the number 10 shirt on his back, won Munster and All-Ireland medals, Tipp defeating Kilkenny in the All-Ireland Final by 3-11 to 0-3, which was played in Killarney due to a builders strike in Croke Park. Jimmy, Tommy Treacy and Tommy Doyle formed one of the greatest half-forward lines ever to represent the County, in that final. In the Munster Final against Limerick, Carberry described Tipperary's first half goal thus in the Cork Examiner: 'Coffey from Newport, with hair the colour of ripe wheat, flicked the ball from wing to square and Sweeper Ryan turned it to the net'. Provincial recognition came the following year when he helped Munster to Railway Cup honours. The talent available to the selectors of that team is best described by the Limerick paper, which upon publication of the team made this recommendation to its readers: 'Don't read the team, read the substitutes'. Among the reserves were such household names as Jack Lynch, John Maher and Timmy Ryan.

For eight years he held his place on the Tipperary panel and, although he started in the League in 1940, he decided to retire from inter-county hurling before the championship commenced. His job as a lorry driver with O'Byrnes Mineral Waters in Limerick had him travelling a good deal from home, and he used to cycle to work every morning from Newport to Sexton Street in Limerick and back in the evening. Jimmy won two North Tipperary Senior Hurling Championships with Newport in 1932 and 1935 and in between won an Intermediate Championship in 1934. After a year's spell with Dublin Young Irelands in 1936, Jimmy returned to Newport. In 1940 he lined out in the Limerick Senior Championship with Young Irelands against an Ahane team which included his brother Jack. On the 4th of April, 1945 he got married to Eileen O Connell from Cappamore and donned the Cappamore colours, having taken up residence in that village. He was chosen on the Ahane team and assisted them to County championship successes in 1947 and 1948 and the full forward line in each of those two finals was Mick Mackey, John Mackey and Jimmy Butler Coffey. What a threesome! He figured on the Cappamore team that was defeated by Dromcollogher in the Co. Junior final of 1949.

When he retired from hurling in the early 'fifties after a career that spanned four decades, he did not sever his connection with the game. Imparting his vast knowledge of hurling to the young men in Cappamore, he trained the local team which brought County championship honours to his adopted parish in both Junior and Senior grades.

Jimmy was a selector with the Limerick Senior Team known as 'Mackey's Greyhounds' that brought the Munster Title back to Limerick in 1955.

He was elected the first Life President of Newport GAA Club, and in 2000 he was selected on the North Tipperary Senior Hurling Team of the Millenium, which he claimed was one of his proudest moments. In 2001 he was presented with the Knocknagow Award. The Knocknagow Award has been in existence for forty years and looking down through the list of winners, it is like a who's who of Tipperary sporting personalities over the years. There had only been 10 hurling award winners when Jimmy received it, so he joined the great legends of Tipperary hurling. It was a tremendous honour for Jimmy and for the Newport GAA club.

In 2007, the Tipperarymens Association in Dublin presented him with their Hall of Fame Award and in 2009 Jimmy received a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Old Time Gaels of East Limerick Committee in recognition of his serices to the GAA in East Limerick over a period of 65 years.

A stylish hurler who had mastered to perfection the art of overhead striking and the fast ground stroke, Jimmy possessed an eagle eye for the speeding sliotar and many of his finest scores were notched without ever having to handle the leather. He modelled his style on the great exponents of the game in the 'twenties. As a youth he collected tokens from the cigarette packets containing the pictures of the great stars of that era-Lory Meagher, Mick Gill, Mickey Cross and Phil Cahill.

They still recall in East Limerick hurling circles, his point off a ground shot from a 'seventy' in a Junior game in the 'forties. Jimmy preferred the roll and the lift method to the underneath jab, when taking a free. On the rock-hard and uneven surface he decided that the odds on successfully rising the ball were not favourable and he , forthwith, cut the sliotar off the sod and sent it straight between the posts.

Last October at his 101st birthday party in Millbrae Lodge Nursing Home, Newport, Jimmy revealed an astonishing memory when recalling games of the past and he still took an avid interest in the fortunes of club and county up to the time of his death, being especially thrilled by Tipperary winning the All-Ireland 2 months previously. Memories rolled off his tongue just as if they all happened recently. The names of teams, Christian, surname, position, club, were carved forever in his mind. He remembered with fondness the epic challenges on the field and the bond of friendship forged in those clashes. His love of the game remained undiminished. He regretted the passing of many of the finer features of the game, especially the drop-puck, a skill that was the perfect foil for countering close marking.

Jimmy was very proud of being a Newport and Tipperary man and was never slow in letting people know where he came from. He was devoted to his faith and was a daily Mass-goer in Cappamore and later in Glenstal Abbey, where he drove to mass every morning until he was 95 years of age. He was a very popular

resident of Millbrae Lodge Nursing Home in Newport where he lived out the last few years of his life in the wonderful care of the management and staff of the Home. He was extremely proud when his son Patsy was appointed to referee the Limerick County Senior Hurling Final in 2009 between Adare and Na Piersaigh, his first senior final in a long and distinguished refereeing career. On a personal note, I was deeply honoured to be invited by his family to Jimmys 100th and 101st birthday celebrations in Millbrae Lodge, as Jimmy and his brother Jack were great friends of my late father.

Jimmy's funeral mass took place in Cappamore church on New Year's Day and was concelebrated by Fr. Liam Ryan. The coffin was draped in the blue and gold colours of his beloved Tipperary and the church was full to capacity. In his homily, Fr. Ryan spoke of Jimmy's devotion to his family and to his faith and his love of hurling. He also spoke of Jimmy's great loyalty, honesty and integrity. Symbols of Jimmy's life brought to the altar at the beginning of Mass and introduced by his grandson Seamus included an old style hurley, family portrait, Glenstal Book of Prayer and one of his numerous scrapbooks. Jimmy's son Eamon spoke on behalf of the family about his father's life and his devotion to the family. P J Maxwell from Nenagh recited "The Hurler's Prayer" and Jimmy's nephew Eddie Browne (who was Jimmy's best man when he got married in 1945) sang some beautiful hymns during the Mass and as the coffin was carried from the church by his family, Slievenamon rang out over the Cappamore air. Cappamore GAA Club provided a Guard of Honour outside the church and the rain began to fall as the funeral cortege arrived at Ballinure Cemetery, where Jimmy was laid to rest with his wife and son. As the coffin was lowered to its final resting place, the prayers were recited by Fr. Liam Kelly and the graveside oration was delivered by Eamon McGough, a friend of Jimmy's from Newport and now domiciled in Dublin where he is a member of the Tipperaryman's Association.

May the green sod of Ballinure Cemetery rest lightly on your gentle soul, Jimmy Butler Coffey, gentleman and hurling legend.

He is deeply regretted by his sons Eamon and Patsy, daughters-in-law Margaret and Josephine, grandchildren, nephews and nieces and a large circle of friends.

He was pre-deceased by his son Thomas in 1983 and his wife Eileen (nee O'Connell) in 1996.

AR DHEIS DE GO RAIBH A ANAM DILIS.

Jimmy Butler Coffey; born 26th October 1909, died 29th December 2010.

SEAMUS WALSH

Croom Precision

*We provide a full turnkey Contract
Manufacturing, Finishing, Inspection,
and Packaging Services to the
Medical Device industry.*



- ☐ Medical Device
- ☐ Healthcare
- ☐ Orthopaedic
- ☐ Aerospace

- ☐ Swiss Auto Machining
- ☐ 5 Axis CNC Milling
- ☐ Electro Chemical Machining
- ☐ Lazer Technology
- ☐ Ultra Sonic Cleaning
- ☐ 5 Axis CNC Grinding
- ☐ Robotic Finishing

Quality:
CNC Cordinate Measuring
Hardness Testing
Surface Testing



Croom Precision Medical Limited
Croom, Co. Limerick, Ireland
Tel: +353 61 397744/397535
Fax: +353 61 397639
email: info@croomprecision.ie

GRADUATE SCHOOL OF MOTORING LIMERICK



TRUCK DRIVING LESSONS

VERY HIGH PASS RATE

BUDGET BEATING PRICES

CAR LESSONS ALSO AVAILABLE

MALE AND FEMALE R.S.A. APPROVED INSTRUCTORS

BEGINNERS WELCOME

ALL TEST ROUTES COVERED

For More Information Contact

Mike Shyne R.D.I. L.D.I.A. 087-2316010

Irene Shyne R.D.I. L.D.I.A. 087-6719982

Bill Shyne R.D.I. L.D.I.A. 087-7595199



An Caisleán - The Castleconnell, Ahane, Montpelier Annual 2011

A Bob's Worth

By Maurice Shortt

While carrying out an electrical job in an upstairs room of my son's city dwelling, I had occasion to remove a 6"pitch pine skirting board, which had been nailed to wooden plugs sunk in the crevice of the wall. I had already removed a portion of the hallway ceiling directly underneath. As I prised the skirting from the wall, I heard the sound of something metallic dropping on the hallway tiles. I knew it wasn't a nail or a screw. My curiosity sent me rushing down the stairs. Imagine my surprise to find a grimy coin! I rubbed it on my jeans and found it was a Victorian shilling, dated 1894.

At least one hundred years must have elapsed since the previous person had handled it. My imagination ran rife as I sat on the stairs and pondered how the shilling came to be behind the skirting. Was it dropped by a child, or did it accidentally fall behind the skirting? What was the effect of the loss to the household? Was someone accused of theft? Was a child quizzed about it? Maybe spanked? What repercussions ensued...? In subsequent days, I mused a lot over the coin, as I researched the value of the shilling at the time it went missing. As a coin of this value was made of silver and, realising that it had passed through many hands and tills, it was in good shape, with all its characters legible, so I assumed it was mislaid circa 1910-1915. A shilling at the time was worth 12 pence. It was affectionately called a "bob". There were two half pennies (ha'pennies, or makes) and four farthings to the penny, commonly known as a lob. There were two sixpences "tanners" to the shilling and four "trupenny bits" (known as "kids eyes" to the shilling. There were twenty shillings to the pound and twenty one shillings to the guinea. The guinea ceased to exist during the last century but still gives a name to two important horse races; the One Thousand Guineas and the Two Thousand Guineas, both run in England and Ireland. The guinea was so named because the silver used to mint it, came from Guinea in Africa. Two shillings made a florin; two shillings and sixpence made half a crown; five shillings made a crown; twenty shillings made a sovereign and ten shillings a half-sovereign – both made of gold. The value of the shilling circa 1910-1915 can be assessed from the following statistics:

1. A Labourer's pay was ten shillings a week.
2. A fitter and turner's pay on the railways was sixteen shillings a week.

3. Weekly rent, for a small house or rooms, was one shilling.
4. A ploughman got two shillings a week more than a labourer.
5. Women labourers, common in those days, got four shillings a week.
6. A pound of butter was tenpence.
7. Beer or Stout was two pence a pint.
8. A husband's pocket money, if he was working was one shilling a week.
9. A soldier's pay was seven shillings a week. He got six pence a week more if he qualified as a sniper. We all know the value of a sniper in World War 1.
10. Oranges were available at three a penny.
11. Six pence made a meat pudding for the whole family.
12. A jug (irrespective of size) of milk cost one penny.
13. Coal was one shilling a cwt.
14. Hire of a donkey and cart for a day was six pence
15. When the old-age pension was introduced, around that time, it was ten shillings a week.
16. Where gas was available to a home, one penny in the meter would give light and use of a cooker for a reasonable period.

The Velvet Rooms

BEAUTY SALON & DAY SPA

Pamper yourself with a wide range of Facial & Body Treatments

Special Offers Available

Castle Oaks Hotel, Castleconnell, Co. Limerick.



Tel. 061-372679

Also: Unit 5, Springfield, Old Singland Road, Limerick. Tel. 061 603731

Proprietors:

***Anne Marie Butler
& Susan O'Gorman***

LOVELY CASTLECONNELL

*When the harvest moon is shining
'tis then my heart is pining
For my home in Castleconnell, that again I'll not see.
Forget it I will never,
That spot by Shannon River,
Though long ago I left it to sail across the sea.
Oh to see again the Shannon,
Where leaps the silver salmon,
And the graceful swans are swimming beneath the willow tree,
And by the castle's shadow,
The corncrake's in the meadow,
Lovely Castleconnell, you are all the world to me.*

*Oh, 'twas often in my childhood
I played there in the wildwood,
Or tripped along the greenfield with my faithful collie dog.
And in the summer weather,
When blooms the purple heather,
I watched the pheasant rising in peaceful Mackey's bog.
Now, in dreams I see my mother,
On her knee my small brother,
As we gathered round the turf fire, how happy then were we,
The rafters would be ringing,
Our sweet songs we'd be singing,
Lovely Castleconnell, you bring memories to me.*

*By the village pump I'd loiter,
With one that made life brighter,
Then, stroll along the pathway to St. Senan's Holy Well,
But soon, those times were over,
For I became a rover,
We parted by the footbridge as mists of autumn fell.
When ends my earthly labours,
Oh, lay me with my neighbours,
In the churchyard there on the hill in lonely Stradbally,
My loved ones will be kneeling,
The church bell sadly pealing,
Lovely Castleconnell, you'll be home again to me.*

Willie Ryan

CHIROPODIST

Mary Ryan M.C.S.CH. M.I.C.H.O.

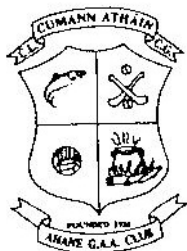
Castle Street, Castleconnell, Co. Limerick.

- *Registered Chiropodist* -
- *Feet Treated in Private & Comfort* -
- *House Calls Made on Request* -

Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 9.30 a.m. - Till Late

Mobile: 087 2165762



AHANE G.A.A. CLUB

**Clubhouse Facilities
Private Function Room and
Bar**

available to cater for
Weddings, Christenings, Anniversaries, Birthdays, etc.
**Bar open every Thursday, Friday, Saturday &
Sunday Nights.**

Enjoy good company, music and song.

Contact Secretary on 061-377768 or 086-6017288

Paddy O'Driscoll

It may seem unusual to include in a parish journal, the death of a native of Cork and a man who spent only a few short years here in Castleconnell during the Emergency, but such was his energy and commitment to the cultural life in the village, that Paddy O'Driscoll is remembered here with great affection by the many friendships he fostered here. He never missed a funeral of anyone he knew over the years and always came up from Cork to attend.

He was stationed here during the war years and met and married local girl, Kathleen Berkery from Garden Hill. He was an extremely witty and prolific writer and penned many songs and articles which were published over the years.



He is remembered in his local Mahon in Cork as a 'local legend' and he spent his time educating young people in the local lore and both local and national history or giving gardening tips to retired groups. He could be Santa Claus at Christmas and St Patrick in March and gave many interviews to students in UCC to help them with their thesis. He was also a community activist and had a particular interest in the elderly and their concerns whether they were financial or health worries, he campaigned tirelessly on their behalf. He loved singing and took part in many talent shows and contributed stories to Cork Yarnspinners in An Spailpin Fanach. Paddy passed away on September 28th 2010 after a lifetime of giving all he had to his community and he will be sadly missed by all who knew his generosity and energy, but especially by his daughter Peggy and other relatives.

Ar Dheis De Go Raibh a Anam

THE GLORIES OF AHANE

*When hurling men from Barrs and Glen,
And stars from Nore's bright stream,
All tell of hurlers long forgot,
And of old glories dream.
Let others sing of Christy Ring,
Or Galway's toast Ardahan,
I sing of the dash and the clash of the ash.
Of the men from famed Ahane.*

*For fifty years thro' sweat and tears,
From Laught and Drominboy,
Knocksentry, Ballyvarra, Gardenhill and Lisnagry,
Annacotty too, they had a few,
Like Power and Pat Mc Mahon,
Brave and bold in their green and gold,
Famed jersey of Ahane.*

*Down that famed old street,
The Mackey's came and Jim Close I've often seen,
The Herbert's o'er from Sallymount,
Flying the orange white and green,
The poet's lays may sing their praise,
By the Liffey, Lee or Bann.*

*We will drink a health to them to-night,
And pray lest we forget,
For Tyler, Scanlan and Jack Roche,
They're well remembered yet,
O'Reilly, Hickey and the Ryans,
Pat Joyce and Givens Dan,
Proud o'er the chest they bore the crest,
Of the men from famed Ahane.*

*When the final whistle sounds for me,
And my journey here is o'er,
I hope they'll send me two good wings,
To fly to Heaven's shore,
Then I'll read the roll of honour there,
Those famous names I'll scan,
To see emblazoned there in letters fair,
The Glories of Ahane*

Paddy O'Driscoll

Castleconnell Historical Society Notes

The Historical Society had a very successful year with a series of Lectures running from Oct.2010 to May 2011 and an outing to Askeaton Abbey and also Glin Castle.

The first talk of the season was held on 19th Oct 2010 this was given by Liam Irwin Head of History Dept at Mary Immaculate College, Limerick. Liam's topic 'The Effect of the Penal Laws on the native Irish', this was a very interesting lecture and provoked much discussion afterwards.

The Nov. Lecture on St Thomas Beckett was delivered by Br Cólman O Clabaigh. The weather conditions were atrocious being a very wet night with gale force winds and only a dozen brave souls braved the elements to join us for this talk; Cólman was in top form and delivered a very interesting lecture.

The Dec. talk was on a local topic, 'The Demesnes and Families of the Clare side of the River Shannon'. This lecture was given by Freddie Bourke, local historian, Freddie was very well versed in this topic and gave a very entertaining Lecture. As this was the Christmas Talk and last one of 2010 we had some refreshments, sandwiches and mince pies to round off the evening.

The first Lecture of 2011 was delivered by Hiram Woods on the topic of The Quakers in Limerick, this was a new topic to many of the people present and Hiram gave a very informative talk on the involvement of the Quakers in so many aspects of life in the Limerick area.

Pat O'Brien of Broadford Co Clare gave the Feb. talk, the topic of Pat's talk was 'Sources for Local History: Life in Broadford Co Clare'. Using his native place as reference Pat gave many examples of the use and location of different materials and repositories which may be consulted in pursuing research in local history.

The March lecture was cancelled due to the death of Pat Dempsey of Lisnagry; Pat was one of the founding members of the Historical Society and will be missed by all R.I.P.

The April talk was given by Paul O'Keeffe Archaeologist with Limerick Co. Council/NRA. Paul spoke on 'The M7 Excavations', this talk drew the largest attendance of the season to hear Paul give details of the various finds on the route of the M7.

The final lecture in May was given by Paddy Waldron on the topic of 'Researching Family History On-line'. Paddy had lots of information to aid those interested in genealogy and furthering their research into their Family Trees. This concluded the Lectures for the 2010/2011 term.

Fieldtrip:

The outing this year was to Askeaton and Glin and took place on Sat 25th June

2011. A large group travelled by bus firstly to the historic town of Askeaton, visiting the Abbey. After lunch the group travelled on to Glin Castle, there they had a guided tour of the interior of the castle and finished the day with a tour of the wonderful Walled Garden which was designed by Veronica the late Knight of Glin's mother.

On arrival back to Castleconnell the group was treated to a wonderful meal prepared by Bláithin Herbert at Herbert's Pub, Sallymount, this proved a fitting end to the season as this was the final event of the 2010-2011 year.

Fitzgibbon Monument:

As is now obvious to all passersby the Fitzgibbon Monument has been erected in the spot chosen by Patrick (Paddy) Rainsford of Laught and a group from the Historical Soc. On a wet and windy day in Oct 2011, almost a year exactly since the group of Paddy Rainsford, Tom Clifford, Gerard Murphy, Irene Cullen, Pat Tuohy and Mary Gleeson met with Paul O'Keeffe, Archaeologist to try to choose a suitable site for the Monument, a group of approx. 40 persons met at the site across from Tom Clifford's gate to hear Cllr. Mary Harty, Chairperson of Limerick Co. Council praise Paddy Rainsford for his tenacity and determination that went such a long way in ensuring that the Monument would no longer languish in the Council's yard on the Newport Road but would now stand proud for all to see and admire. Praise was also given to Paul O'Keeffe for his pushing ahead with the Project and selecting the expert help needed to re-instate the Monument as near as possible to its original condition. Paddy Rainsford is seeking no praise for his efforts but he richly deserves the thanks of the entire community for what he has done in ensuring all of us today and future generations can enjoy this fine Monument.

The Society meets once a month in Hickeys Back Room, where there is always a cosy fire and a welcome for all, please feel free to come along and join us. Advance notices of the talks are mentioned in the Parish Newsletter and Castleconnell Notes in the Limerick Leader and posters are put up in local businesses.

Committee: Chairman: Henry Nash, Sallymount; Hon Sec: Anne Murphy; Treasurer: Irene Cullen; Public Relations Officer: Mary Gleeson. Committee: Pat Tuohy, Ger Murphy, Turlough Herbert, Michael Murphy, Stephen Reidy and Gerard McInerney.

M.G.



OLD TIME GAELS OF EAST LIMERICK

The Old Time Gaels of East Limerick is an organisation founded in 2003 by a committee comprising of chairman Eddie Wade of South Liberties, secretary Ger O'Connell of Pallasgreen, treasurer Seamus Walsh of Ahane and John Cooney of South Liberties, Mike Clarke of Cappamore and Tony Hickey of Boher. It was founded to acknowledge the contribution of Gaels in the East Limerick Division who have given lifelong, voluntary and dedicated service to the Gaelic Athletic Association in various capacities over the years. Many of these people worked quietly in the background in areas like administration, fundraising, field maintenance, refereeing and endless other important chores. Others have excelled on the field of play and brought honour to their clubs, division and county. Each year we honour a person from each club in the East division who is carefully selected by the above committee. We also select an overall "Personality Award Winner" who receives the "Tom O'Brien Personality Award" dedicated to the late Tom O'Brien, the Doon clubman who gave so much to the promotion of our games in the Division before passing away at such a young age.

Ahane people who have been honoured since 2003 include Donal Brennan, RIP, Willie Keane, Peggy Duffy, RIP, Arthur Graham, Gerry Piggott, P. J. Keane, Tony Herbert, Tommy Casey, Paddy Enright, RIP and Sean Leonard.

This years presentation took place on Friday February 11th at the Millenium Centre in Caherconlish and the Ahane recipient was P.J. Keane, formerly of Gardenhill and now domiciled in Sligo, The following is the profile of P. J. which was part of a wonderfully produced programme which was printed for the occasion.

PJ KEANE

P J Keane is the second member of the famous Keane GAA family from Gardenhill, Castleconnell to be honoured with an award by the Old Time Gaels of East Limerick as his brother Willie received the award in 2004. PJ was born in 1939 and played hurling for Ahane from 1952 to 1974. His father Jack won 2 All-Ireland Senior Hurling medals with Limerick in 1918 and 1921, playing in a famous Limerick half-back line with Denny Lanigan and Willie Hough, which became known as " the great Hindenburg line"

after a famed German general of the first world war. His brother Willie played 3 championship games with Limerick in 1956 and 1957 and won a Co. Senior Hurling Championship medal with Ahane in 1955.

P.J. made his championship debut with the Limerick Senior Hurlers on 27th May 1962 against Galway in Ennis and played his last game on 28th June, 1970 against Cork in Thurles. He played 10 championship games in those 9 years at centrefield, centre-forward and full-forward and scored 4 goals and 9 points in his inter-county championship career. He played at centre field on the Limerick team beaten by Cork in the National Hurling League Final in 1970.

PJ played in the Railway Cup Final with Munster in 1962, 63 and 65 winning a medal in 1963 on a team that included Christy Ring, John Doyle, Jimmy Doyle, Tony Wall, Liam Devaney, Donie Nealon, Mick Maher, Tom Cheasty and Jimmy Smith. He won 4 East Limerick Junior Football medals with Ahane in 1962, 65, 66 and 67 and added a County Junior Football medal in 1962, when Ahane beat Abbeyfeale in the final played in Kilmallock. He won a Connacht Junior Hurling medal in 1972 when, stationed in Boyle, Co. Roscommon with the Irish Army, he led Roscommon to the title against Mayo on a scoreline of 7-9 to 0-4. PJ scored a hat-trick of goals in the first half, during which Mayo failed to score. He represented Ireland in the Tailteann Games in 1964 and 65 and won an All-Army All-Ireland in 1965.

He played his first senior hurling game for Ahane in 1959 and his last in 1974. It is my firm belief and the belief of a lot of Limerick Gaels that PJ Keane never received the recognition that he deserved for his exploits on the hurling field as his career coincided with a barren period for both his club Ahane and the Limerick Senior Hurling side. Ahane did not win a senior title between 1955 and 1998 and Limerick did not win a senior trophy between 1955 and 1971. This should not take from the fact that PJ was one of the best hurlers of all time in Ahane and Limerick and would



Photo shows P.J. Keane being presented with his award by Seamus Walsh of the Old Time Gaels of East Limerick Committee on Friday Feb. 11th, 2011

have got his place on any best 15 of any period in our history. He was being selected on Munster Railway Cup teams in years that Cork and Tipperary were very dominant in Munster and Clare and Waterford were not far behind them either. The All-Star Awards scheme was introduced by the GAA in 1971 and if they had been in existence during the 1960s, PJ Keane would no doubt have received more than one award.

As PJ himself said in an article for the Ahane Club History entitled Come on Ahane, The Spuds Are Boiling, "Having played with club and county from, roughly, 1952 to 1974, we never won any medal in any grade of hurling. During that valley period it was not always because we didn't have some good teams, because we had, or because we didn't try, because we did. It was a combination of tight competition, good opposition who were fortunate enough to have good teams for those periods, such as Tipperary in the 60s or South Liberties in the 60s and 70s, and in certain situations, sheer bad luck".

P J is also a renowned singer and musician and launched a CD entitled "The Fair at Newport Town" in his cousin John Lee's premises in Newport on the 10th of December 2004, the same night that his brother Willie received the Old Time Gaels of East Limerick Award in Caherconlish. He has been living in Sligo Town for the past 30 odd years.

PJ, his family and friends are welcome here tonight to keep the Ahane banner flying high.

In 2009, the award went to Gerry Piggott who received his award on Friday December 18th at the Millenium Centre, Caherconlish and the following is the profile of Gerry that appeared in the programme prepared by the committee.

Gerry Piggott

Gerry Piggott and his dog Athain Og are a very familiar sight at all Ahane and Limerick hurling matches. Gerry is President of Ahane GAA Club having taken over that role from his great friend Donal Brennan who died a few years ago and who received an award from the Old Time Gaels of East Limerick committee shortly before he died.

Gerry was born in 1924 at Farranshone in Limerick City where he lived with his family and continues to live there to this day. Although Treaty Sarsfields were the GAA club in his area, Gerry is a lifelong supporter of the Ahane GAA Club since he was 4 years of age. He recalls being none too popular with the Treaty men when he would be shouting for Ahane when they would be playing against Treaty Sarsfield.

His Aunt, Mrs. Curran, lived in Fountain House (which was the old Police Barracks) at the junction of the Dublin Road and the Newport Road at Lisnagry. As soon as Gerry could cycle a bike, he would travel out to his Aunt's house every Friday evening after school and remain there until Sunday evening. He has fond memories of going to Reillys field where Ahane hurlers trained and played during the 1930s and 40s, where hurlers such as Timmy Ryan, Paddy Scanlon, Jackie Power, Mick Hickey, Paddy McMahon, the Herbert brothers Tony, Sean and Mick and the Mackey brothers Mick and John honed their skills during the halcyon days of the Ahane team which won 7 County Senior Hurling Championships in a row on 2 occasions, 1933 to 1939 and 1942 to 1948. He had many great friends on those great Ahane teams. Gerry has a wealth of memories from that era and has a wonderful sense of recall.

Gerry has been supporting Limerick hurlers since 1937 and he remembers cycling to Thurles on a Saturday evening for a match the following day, when the front wheel of his bike seized and he carried the bike for a further 20 miles to Thurles. It cost him ten shillings to have the bike repaired for the return journey. He would get accommodation wherever it could be found and he remembers sleeping on a kitchen table in Dundrum on one occasion.

Gerry worked as an upholsterer in Cannocks for 33 years and continues to this day as a master upholsterer at his home in Farranshone. His home is a shrine to Ahane and Limerick hurling, with a huge scrapbook of newspaper cuttings, photographs and other memorabilia of Ahane and Limerick, gathered over the last 60 years. I remember calling to Gerry's house in the year 2000 when I was researching for the Ahane History Book 'Come On Ahane, The Spuds Are Boiling', and I spent a full 3 hours looking at all the material that he had collected over the previous 60 years and being enthralled at some of the photos and cuttings that he had and the pristine condition in which he had kept them over all those years.

A great story told about Gerry is when one day he was at a match on his own in the Gaelic Grounds, and some wag in the crowd asked him where was the dog. To which Gerry replied 'He's at home in Farranshone listening to it on the wireless'.

Gerry's passion for Ahane and Limerick hurling is never ending and he is the most loved and popular person in the Ahane Club. He never misses a meeting, AGM, club function, match and even attends training sessions on occasions. No one was more happy than him when in 1998 the Ahane Senior Hurlers bridged a 43 year gap and brought home the Daly Cup to the parish of Ahane and Castleconnell.

He is a deserving recipient of an Old Time Gaels of East Limerick award in this, the 125th anniversary of the founding of the Gaelic Athletic Association.

In 2007, the award went to Peggy Duffy, RIP on Friday November 30th at The Millenium Centre, Caherconlish and the following is the profile of Peggy that appeared in the programme prepared by the committee.

Peggy Duffy

The famed Ahane G.A.A. Hurling Club was founded in 1926 and legends like the Mackeys, Mick Hickey and Timmy Ryan were instrumental in its foundation. The Camogie side of the club was founded shortly after in 1929 by another legend, Paddy Scanlon. Peggy Duffy (nee McCabe) and her family have been steeped in its gaelic traditions since the beginning. Her career spanned the decades from the 40's to the 70's and her many honours included 9 County Senior Camogie Championships, 6 County Senior Leagues, 4 Munster Club championships and 2 All-Ireland runners-up medals in the years 1967 and '68, losing both finals to St. Pauls of Kilkenny. She also served as Secretary to the Limerick Co. Camogie Board from 1967 to 1978 and was Chairperson of the Ahane Camogie Club for a period during the 1960's. Peggy was Treasurer of the club from 1974 to 1979. She was also a valuable member of the History Book Committee from 1999 to 2001 when the Ahane G.A.A. history Book was published.

Peggy's brother Martin is a former President of Comhaltas Ceoltoiri na hEireann and former Chairman of Limerick Co. Camogie Board. Her brother Sean served as Secretary of Ahane G.A.A. club and also as Chairman of the Limerick Co. Camogie Board. Her sister Josephine served as Vice-President of Ahane Camogie Club. Throughout the years Peggy has been a great upholder of Ahane's proud tradition and is held in high esteem by all Gaels in the East Limerick division. How appropriate therefore that our Chairman Eddie Wade now calls on her to accept this little token of appreciation from us.

In 2007, the award went to Arthur Graham on Friday November 30th at The Millenium Centre, Caherconlish and the following is the profile of Arthur that appeared in the programme prepared by the committee

Arthur (Archie) Graham

Affectionately known as Archie to his many friends in Ahane and Eastern gaelic circles, his early career coincided with him playing alongside the great Mick Mackey in the County Senior Hurling Championship of 1951 when Mick played his last game in the Ahane colours. Alongside his brother Joe his playing career reached its peak four years later when Ahane, captained by Dick Leonard and inspired by an ageing Jackie Power,

defeated Geraldines in the County Senior Hurling Final.

In the intervening years Archie served the Ahane club as Chairman, Secretary, P.R.O., County Board Delegate, East Board Delegate and Senior selector in both codes and was the proud recipient of the "Clubman of the Year Award" in 1976.

As a highly regarded Trustee of the club, he played a major role in the development of the splendid Newgarden Clubhouse and grounds, Mackey Park which were officially opened in May 1995 after many years of toil and effort in financing the project. He was also the inspiration and guiding hand in the committee which raised the finance for the erection of a beautiful life-size bronze statue of his friend Jackie Power, in the village of Annacotty. He was also one of the hardest workers on the Ahane G.A.A Club sub-committee which produced the club history "Come on Ahane - The Spuds are Boiling" in 2002. His sons Emmet, Tommy and Dermot have all won various under-age hurling titles with Ahane over the years.

It was men like Archie Graham who made the G.A.A the great organisation that it is today and he is indeed a most worthy recipient of this award tonight for his unselfish contribution to the Ahane Club and the East Limerick division down through the years.

Seamus Walsh

Plant Design

Interior Plantscaping Specialists

Offices - Banks - Reception Areas

Showsrooms - Hotels - Shopping Malls & Private Houses, etc.

Purchase or Lease Terms - Maintenance/Service

Sole agent for the finest quality artificial natural stemmed silk leafed trees.

Contact: Trudie McInerney

Tel/Fax: 061 377788 Mobile: 087 2333611

or Annie McInerney

Mobile: 087 2717715

World's End, Castleconnell, Co. Limerick.

E-mail: sales@plantdesign.ie

www.plantdesign.ie

CORA
COLLINS
DESIGN



www.coracollins.com



t: 087-831 9929
e: cora_collins@eircom.net

Unit 69 Eastlink Business Park
Tipperary Road, Limerick

Daly's Cross Service Station

Dublin Rd., Castleconnell. Tel: 061 377274

Petrol - Oil - Diesel

Car Wash - Agri Diesel - Food Store - Whipped Ices

Coal - Briquettes - Kosangas - Wine - Hot

Counter - Deli - In House Bakery - Sandwiches/Rolls

New Pizza Take Away Available All Day

ATM - LOTTO PLUS - QUICK PICK

Opening Hours:

7.00am to 10.00pm Monday to Saturday

9.00am to 9.00pm Sunday

- TYRE BAY -

Opening Hours

Monday to Friday 9.00 a.m. to 9.00 p.m.

Saturday 10. 00 a.m. to 5.00 p.m. Sunday 12.00pm to 5.00pm

The Historical/ Singing River Walk

The historical/ singing river walk held on Sunday, June 26th in Castleconnell was enthusiastically received by over 40 participants.

The walk began at the Ferry car park with a short talk given by local historian, Pat Tuohy. This was followed by a "The River is Wide" performance by the ACM Village Singers under their conductor Aisling O'Gorman who also enthusiastically got all the walkers involved in the performance.

The walk continued down the bank of the river over the foot bridge and along the Doonass side, stopping occasionally to hear the local history of the river and sing in unison some original works by Aisling O'Gorman "Singing on the River" and "See The River" and old favourites "Summertime" and "Milly's Back Yard".

As part of a documentary series on Community Choirs, Ballyhoura Local Radio interviewed participants and recorded both the historical anecdotes and the wonderful singing. This will be broadcast in the coming weeks on BCRfm92.6

Afterwards The Village Singers gave a short concert for the residents at Rosary Hill Nursing Home.

ACM Village Singers meet every Wednesday at ACM Castleconnell from 8.00 to 9.30pm.

New members are always welcome to join.

For further details contact ACM Office on (061) 372750.

Donal Hynes Plant Hire

Lisnagry, Co. Limerick.

Tel. 061 377103 Mobile: 086 2487878

**Track Digger - Rock Breaker
Tractor & Dumper**

For ...

All Earth Moving - Drainage - House Foundations

LIAM MINIHAN

The death occurred on Sunday, November 7th, 2010 at his home in Ardvarna, Lisnagry of Liam Minihan, at the age of 52. Liam had been ill for the last few months and died peacefully surrounded by his loving family.

His first and foremost love was his wife and family. A common sight would be of Liam on his mobile phone at a match, meeting or other function, ringing home to make sure that all was well with the family. He adored his wife Celia and daughters Leeann, Rachel, Aimee, Rebecca and Kate and sons Christopher, Jack and Luke, his mother Nora and brother Joe. There was nothing that he wouldn't do for their wellbeing.



During his lifetime he worked for O'Mara Motors, Alcan and Aramex Twoway in Shannon and ran a Funeral Undertakers business, Delaney Minihans in Newport.

He loved a game of cards, be it poker or 45 and ran a successful poker-game in the Ahane Clubhouse for a number of years for the club. He was an avid horse-racing fan, making annual trips to Cheltenham, Galway and Listowel races.

But his true sporting passion was the GAA. Liam was a member of the Ahane GAA Club committee from 1981 to 2003 and is a former Chairman, Secretary, PRO and East Board Delegate of the club and played hurling and football for the club at all levels from Under 14 to Senior from 1970 to 1996. He was a tough and tenacious half-forward and full-forward during his playing career but Ahane did not win any county titles during those years. Among the honours he won during his playing career were East Senior Football Championships in 1982 and '83, Senior Hurling Cup in 1981, East Under-21 Football in 1977, '78, '79 and Hurling in 1975 and '77 and a Junior Hurling League in 1976. He was manager and selector to numerous hurling and football teams in the club down through the years.

He was PRO of his Club from 1995 to 1997, Secretary from 1997 to 2000, East Board Delegate from 1998 to 2003 and Chairman from 2000 to 2003. He was Vice Chairman of the East Limerick GAA Board in 2004. Liam

played a very active role in securing and purchasing the extra land for a second playing pitch in Newgarden. He travelled to all Limerick games for many years with his dear friend and neighbour, Jim Richardson and always made sure that a ticket was secured for Jim, whatever about himself.

Liam loved the Ahane Club and the Gaelic Athletic Association. He was one of the most loyal men that you could meet and if he liked you, he would bend over backwards to oblige and assist you. He was delighted to take on the role of Secretary with the Ahane GAA Club in 1997, following in the footsteps of his late uncle Mick Minihan who was Secretary and Co. Board Delegate in the glory days of the club. But his most proud moment was the night in 2000 when he was elected Chairman of his beloved club after a close contest, securing the chair with just one vote to spare. No task was too big or too small for Liam and at committee meetings when volunteers were needed for some task or other, Liam's hand was first up to offer his services. There was no better fun or crack than when Liam and Tom Blake would get together in the clubhouse or the field and the ballhopping would start, it would be priceless. Both of them are now gone to their eternal reward.

Since 2004, Liam was an umpire with his good friend, inter -county referee Pat O' Connor. He umpired up and down the country with Pat and his big ambition was to officiate at a game in Croke Park. His chance came when Pat was appointed to referee the Leinster Hurling Final in Croke Park in July, 2007. But alas, it was not to be. Liam and Celia had a foreign holiday booked for the same time and Liam's last chance to umpire in Croke Park was gone as Pat was not appointed to referee any further games there. He often told me that his greatest sporting thrill was being elected Chairman in the year 2000 and being Club Secretary in 1998 when Ahane won the County Senior Hurling Championship after a lapse of 43 years, and his greatest disappointment was not umpiring a game in Croke Park.

Martin Kiely, in his Sideline View column in the Limerick Leader Sport Section said that "Liam Minihan of Ahane was a loyal official for his club and East Limerick and carried out his work with pride and diligence but of more importance he always did it with respect. People like Liam are the bedrock of our association". NEVER A TRUER WORD WAS SPOKEN.

St. Patrick's Church in Ahane was packed to overflowing for his funeral mass. Mass was concelebrated by Fr. Brendan Kyne, P.P., and it was a very moving ceremony made special by all of Liam's family taking part in it. The sun shone brightly as the funeral procession, accompanied by a Guard of Honour from the Ahane GAA Club, made it's way past Liam's home in Ardvarna to Killeenagarrieff Cemetery, where a beautiful song was sung by The Singing Jarvey, (a friend of Liam's from his trips to Kerry) and the

graveside oration was delivered by Eamon Lawlor, a friend of Liam's and former Ahane GAA Club Chairman. Liam will be very sadly missed by his family and many friends and the Gaels of East Limerick.

May the green sod of Killeenagarraiff Cemetery rest lightly on your gentle soul, Liam a chara.

Liam was pre-deceased by his son Cormac and his father Willie. Sympathies are extended to his wife Cecelia, daughters Leeann, Rachel, Aimee, Rebecca, Kate and foster sons Christopher, Jack and Luke, mother Nora, brother Joe, uncles, aunt, niece Ruth, brothers in law, sisters in law, nieces and nephews in law, cousins, relatives and a large circle of friends.

Liam Minihan: born May 5, 1958; died November 7, 2010.

Seamus Walsh

Shannon Inn

Castleconnell. Telephone: 061 377104

BEST WISHES TO THE
COMMITTEE ON THE LAUNCH OF
THE PARISH ANNUAL

Rooms available for meetings

All Saints Church, Castleconnell

Last year, the Dean and Vestry of All Saints Church, Castleconnell, Co. Limerick launched a fund raising drive for much needed repairs to this historic Church.

It is estimated that a total fund of €50,000 will be required to keep the Church open.

Some €10,000 has been raised to date mainly from Donations, Cake Sales, Flower Festival, Concerts, a Historical Night and a Big Sing. This has allowed work to be carried out on the spire and roof.

The response from the local community and organisations to date has been overwhelming.

As the church still needs re-wiring, internal repairs and further work to the roof, more events are planned for this year.

The church contains many monuments of historical interest. These monuments are to families who no longer live in the parish but their legacy lives on in local history. The Massy and Bourke families are examples.

A Historical talk and slide show on the Massy family will be given by Mr. Frank Tracy on Friday, 18th November at 8.00pm in the Church. Mr. Tracy has published a book on Lord Massy and his family.

Best Wishes from George & Esther Lee

Shannon Stores

Main St., Castleconnell. Tel: 061 377129

Newsagent

Grocery

Fuel Merchant

Lotto

National Lottery Agent

- Open: Monday to Sunday 7.00am to 9.00pm -

- In Business for 65 Years -

Castleconnell Tidy Towns Committee

Castleconnell Tidy Towns Committee waved goodbye to a very successful 2010 with a bright display of fairy lights, holly and Christmas decorations at the village pump and throughout Main Street. This was well received by the community and created a beautiful atmosphere when teamed with the snow and the Parish Council's Christmas tree in the grounds of the church. 2011 has been a very busy and exciting year for the committee with six new committee members.

Spring began with the litter pick in March. Throughout 3 Saturdays, another 300 bags of litter in total were picked from Belmont Road, Garden Hill and Nelson's Cross. Thanks to all who volunteered on the day and worked tirelessly with the committee. Your support is vital and greatly appreciated!

Summer arrived with huge excitement as amid the re-planting of the flowerbeds at the Parish Hall, the Pump and the Hanging Baskets, the RTE Nationwide crew arrived to film Castleconnell village as part of the Tidy Town's campaign. A day's filming with the Nationwide Crew culminated in a highly positive bulletin which was screened on RTE 1.

On with the work to Daly's cross where the traffic island was given a new lease of life with a spot of paint from the FAS workers (supplied kindly by Limerick County Council) and the planting of a new shrubbery and flowerbed by the committee. Then our "Welcome to Castleconnell" sign was erected amid great enthusiasm.

The summer competition was underway and the successful applicants met after the Annual Sponsored Walk at the ferry on 18th September to receive their prizes. The Green Cross Pharmacy won the award for "Best Presented Business". Castlerock won "Best Green Area", St. Flannan's Terrace were awarded "Best Floral Display" and Meadowbrook took the prize for "Most Litter Free Estate". The highlight of the day was the unveiling of the Wildlife Panels at the Ferry and the Worlds End.

Along with all this activity, the Bat Boxes and Bird Boxes were erected at the riverbank, Maple Grove erected a new sign, Scanlan Park residents committee planted a new flower bed near the entrance to the cemetery and two very successful cake sales took place which as usual were very well supported by the community.

In order to check out the competition, the committee visited Lismore, Co. Waterford in early September, just before the results of the Tidy Town's competition were announced. The day was a great success and the committee received a few tips on how to make even more improvements in



Section of the walkers who took part in Sponsored Walk for Tidy Towns in September.

our beautiful village. Incidentally, Lismore were the 2011 Tidy Town's Winners in the same category as Castleconnell.

Castleconnell were awarded "Best Overall Development Approach" from Ballyhoura Development Ltd in 2011 and in the Tidy Towns competition the village was awarded a further 22 points bringing our total to 250 points. This totals 49 extra points within 2 years – WATCH THIS SPACE... The Annual General Meeting was held in the Shannon Inn where Sean Hartigan handed over chairmanship to Vincent Warfield after 3 very successful years as Chairman. Thanks to Sean for all his commitment, hard work and dedication.

The following committee members were elected for 2011/2012.

Vincent Warfield, Chairman, Julie McCabe, Treasurer, Frances Clifford, Secretary, Linda Hardiman, Press Relations Officer, Sean Hartigan, Schools Co-ordinator. Róisín Hartigan, Representative for Castleconnell Management Committee, Paddy Tuohy, Terry Poole, Margaret Freeney, Michael Butler, John Hardiman, Willie Reddy, Dermot Griffin, WELCOME TO ALL OUR NEW MEMBERS!!

The committee intend to round off this very successful and enjoyable year with a "New Years Eve Gala Event" – Dinner and Dancing will take place from 9pm at the Parish Hall and attendees can bring your own beverage.

Tickets are available for tables of ten at €20 per person. Contact any committee member for details of tableholders.

Castleconnell Village is a confident contender for the Tidy Towns Competition in 2012. The community have supported this venture enormously to date and all of us on the committee would like to thank the FAS workers, Castleconnell Development Committee and you the members of the community for your support and good wishes. We look forward to your continued support in 2012.

Check out our new Facebook Page – “Castleconnell Tidy Towns”

Evergreen Rambling House

The “Rambling House” is in its 5th year. We meet once a month at the ACM parlour for song, story and a little music - a group of about twenty people. We have had many enjoyable nights where friendships are formed and we especially welcome our friends from Silvermines Singers Circle.

We welcome all age groups and if you don't sing, you are very welcome to come and just listen.

There are no experts in our “Rambling House”, just a group of Ramblers and we provide a cup of tea.

From 8 to 10 pm on the second Friday of each month. Admission €5.

Gilhooly's

Lisnagry

Good Luck & Best Wishes from

Lisnagry Post Office

Castleconnell Boat Club



World Rowing Championships 2011

The Irish Adaptive mixed Four (LTAmix 4+) which includes 4 Castleconnell members were the highlight of the season competing at the 2011 World Rowing Championships (Bled Slovakia), for the second year in succession, finishing in 5th position in the A finals and thus qualifying for the Paralympics in London 2012. In 2010 this crew was the only representative at the World Championships in New Zealand. The crew has previously won bronze medals at a Rowing World cup event. This was the only Irish crew to make Olympic qualification and could yet be the only Irish rowing representation for the London Olympics in 2012. This was a great result for Ireland and Castleconnell rowing. The crew is managed by Joe Cunningham from Castleconnell Boat Club

Congratulations to Joe Cunningham and all members of the crew.



An Caisleán - The Castleconnell, Ahane, Montpelier Annual 2011

Castleconnell Irish Champions 2011

To win one championship is a great achievement for any club but to win three in one season is a historic achievement for the club in its short history. The club has now 5 championship wins, congratulations to all those involved over the last 27 years of the clubs history.

Over the last 4 to 5 years there has been a progression of some twenty juniors from the under 14 age category. Some quality crews have developed from this group and progressed further under the guidance of James, which has resulted in a championship winning crew this year. This years school transition students have shown great potential also, winning impressively at Lee sprint regatta and will provide the basis for next years attempt to retain the junior quad title (no pressure guys). Three of the championship winning crew trialled for selection to International competition and represented Ireland at the Coup De Jeunesse (European Junior championships) and the Homes Internationals (Ireland, England, Scotland, Wales). Actually this is the second year in succession that the club has international representation and has brought the standard of rowing in the club to a very high level.

At the December Irish trials in Newry the club had the second, third and fourth best juniors in the country so it was no surprise then that the club had the best national junior quad this year.

Congratulations to the crew and coach James Mangan who has done a magnificent job.

VILLAGE CAFÉ

MAIN STREET CASTLECONNELL

Tel. 087 - 763 7542

Newly Opened

Selection of Hot & Cold Foods

**FULL IRISH BREAKFAST
SERVED ALL DAY**



Fresh and made to order sandwiches,
breakfast rolls, wraps, soup, lasagne, etc.



**Takeaway Available
Phone Orders Welcome**

OPEN 7 DAYS

Mon - Sat 8.00 a.m. - 6.00 p.m.

Sunday 8.30 a.m. - 4.00 p.m



For Josephine



Josephine Flynn Noble 1955-2010

We want the world to stop, to hold its breath
Just like we did when we heard the news today
We want the world to pause, to know you've gone
We want the world to know we miss you.

Life and death so intertwined, a fast but fleeting time
Shared memories and moments, the precious gift of friendship
Childhood, summer days by the river, laughter, fun and dreams
All over now for our friend who left us way too soon.

The world won't stop, it won't pause, it won't hold its breath
Life continues on as though she hasn't been and gone
But we have stopped, have held our breaths, have cried
Remembering, missing and accepting is harder than we knew.

Light up the sky, shine bright for us, tell us you are safely home
Stay with us always, keep us safe as we may meet again.

Anne Barry Dodd, Sydney

WEDDING BELLS

Congratulations and a long and happy life to the following couples who were married during the past year:



Kevin Allen Castlerock Woods and Audrey Warde Castlerock Woods
Patrick Sheehy Kilmallock and Breda Boyle Kildeely
Cormac O'Comhrai Galway and Sarah Ann Muckley Dublin
David Hannon Annaholty and Denise Kelleher Annaholty
John Creamer St Patrick's Villas and Lesley Naughton St Patrick's Villas
Sean Frawley Knocksentry and Maeve Seahill Knocksentry
Joseph Clarke Dublin and Sinead Deegan Dublin
Darren Shine Castletroy and Yvonne Bridgeman Clyduff
Brendan Quinn Cratloe and Caroline Collins Knocksentry
Patrick Mulligan Meath and Paula Stanley Lisnagry
Denis O'Connor Dooradoyle and Leonora Hannon Clare
Richard Butler Ballinacurra and Maeve Herbert Lisnagry
Paul Lynch South Circular Road and Mary Mangan Mountshannon Road
Colm O'Neill O'Callaghan Strand and Aoife Ni Shiochru Newgarden
Michael O'Brien Nelson's Cross and Bridget Ryan Portcrusha
James Condon Kildeely and Emma Laffan Caherconlish
Hugh John Carvill Mayobridge and Majella Tuohy Montpelier
Timothy O'Keeffe Listowel and Claire Hayes Listowel
Paul Delaney Australia and Margaret Kiely Castleconnell
Kevin Doherty Castlerock Woods and Concepta O'Brien Castlerock Woods
Timothy Leddin Hospital and Linda Donohue Ahane

Welcome New Babies



Dara Richard Hough Grange Lisnagry
Jackson Cahal Smith Bog Road
Carmen Armenbariz Murphy Belmont Hill
Hanna Mai Foley Castlerock Woods
Darragh Michael Connolly Castleconnell
Marc Martin Dooner Knockbrack
Sophie Lucy Morgan Old Singland Road
Aaron Patrick Fitzgerald Castlerock Drive
Caoilfhinn Eileen O'Reilly Montpelier
Eva Christina Magill Knockbrack
Aislinn Margaret Welch Taunton Manchester
Jack (John) Sean Hickey Bruach na Sionna
Killian Harnett Kennedy Park
Molly Anna McCaffrey Inis Cluain
Niamh Mary O'Rourke Castlerock Woods
Eimear Kathleen Hollans Knocksentry
Oisin Martin O'Connor The Spa
Lucien Gerard Ryan Bourke Scanlan Park
Aisling Mary Carey Portglenone Antrim
Emma Jane Freeney Cedarwood Grove
Evie Jean Hickey Warwick Castlerock Grove
Grace Michelle Peters Castlerock Woods
Ronan Vincent Ryan Dooradoyle
Lucy Charlotte Ryan Dooradoyle
Marc Ferrer-Lawrence Meadowbrook
Jack Daniel Hannon Knockbrack
Alice Maeve Molloy Doughuisce Galway
Zoe Helen Molloy Rathlinn

Anna Beth Frawley Castlerock
Roisin Norah Nancy Cosgrove Foxhall Newport
Jack Michael Ryan Gouig
Andrea Breda Murnane Derreen
Daniel James John Reidy Castletroy
Kenneth Martin Kelleher Scanlan Park
Cate Ellen O'Brien Castlerock Mews
Orla Carroll Inis Cluain
Emily May Wilmott Frankford Cork
Zach Ruben O'Keeffe Castlerock Drive
Christopher John O'Sullivan Ahane
James Stephen Berkery New Garden
Alex Michael John Finnan Bruach Na Sionna
Joe Mark Quigley Garden Hill
Emily Monica Madden Coolbawn Meadows
John William Keane Mount Kenneth House Limerick
Gemma Frawley Old Garden Lisnagry
Ryan David Buckley Monaleen
Brin Cullen Ballymackeogh
Erin Kate Madigan Tontines
Chloe Michaela Cooke Coosane Birdhill
Jack Shane Bridgeman Stradbally Close
Scott Frank Kelly Scanlan Park
Mya Kate Byrne The Commons
Grace Louise Josephine Sadlier Murroe
Alison Emma Glowacki Belmont Hill
Dylan Lynch Newport
Jack Condon Garden Hill
Macjeg Alexander Szelag Castlerock Mews
Luke Gerard Mulcair Westbury Limerick
Ahrye Byrne Castlerock Mews
Lilwenn Le-Sommer Rennison Balbriggan Dublin
Finn Patrick Kurt Gerhardt Cooke London
Lily O'Keeffe Murroe
Erin Julia Shire Lisnagry
Megan Breda Ryan Newgarden
Preston Ryan Newgarden
Gerry O'Dwyer Wilton Cork
Kayla Saora Moore Castlerock Avenue
Jason Eric O'Keeffe Scanlan Park
Luke Daniel Graham O'Shea Ballyvarra

Sophie Birdthistle Coolbawn House
 Sienna Mary Ryan Collins Scanlan Park
 Chloe Luca Carey Newgarden
 Ben Oliver O'Donoghue Woodview Limerick
 Jack Andrew Lyons Newport
 Thomas John Blackwell Annagh Lisnagry
 Jay Patrick Nolan O'Briensbridge
 Molly Catherine O'Rourke Castlerock Woods
 Fionn Timothy Matthew Heffernan Annaholty
 Cillian James Doherty Castlerock Road
 Charles James Butler Groody Castletroy
 John James McConnell Ballyvarra
 Aoife Margaret Slattery Montpelier
 James Liam Hardiman Castleconnell
 Damien Paul Keane Castletroy
 Christopher Coffey Castleconnell
 Matilda Kaine England
 Emily Rebekah McNamara Belmont View
 Pdraig Jay Byrnes Scanlan Park
 Frazer Samuel Dukes Castleconnell
 David Terenes Brennan Vacas Castleconnell
 Jennifer Saora McDonald Castletroy
 Michaela Joyce O'Connell Scanlan Park
 Roisin Indiana Feerick Ahane
 Sean Joseph Guidera Rearcross
 Saoirse Louise Guidera Rearcross
 Lucy Emma Collins Killeenagarriff

THE BLACK SWAN

Rara Avis
Annacotty

John Nicholas

Tel: 061 336505

Music on Saturdays & Mondays
Big Screen TV for All Matches
Bar Food Served



An Caisleán - The Castleconnell, Ahane, Montpelier Annual 2011

THESE WE REMEMBER

During the past year the deaths took place of the following people:

Mary Ridgeway, London, formerly Clonara
Paddy Lee, Maple Grove
Niall Doyle, Ballykeefe
Charlie Condon, Doon, formerly London and Bunkey
Liam Minihan, Ardvarna
Con Enright, Hamstead London, formerly Ballyvarra
Mary O'Toole (nee Ryan), England, formerly Montpelier
Liam Lynch, Clonlara
Brigid Moloney (nee Ryan) Fairyhall
Mary Collins, St. Patrick's Villas
Kathleen Colette (nee Coffey), England, formerly Stradbally
Michael Kavanagh, Brookhaven
Aidan O'Flynn, Mountshannon Road
Catherine Kathleen Crosse (nee Mc Carthy), Ballybrown, formerly Sallymount
William Cusack, Wales, formerly Groody, Dublin Road
James O'Brien, Montpeiler
Bridget Linnane, Biddyford, Lisnagry
Emmet Ryan, Castle Street
Paddy Murphy, Gouig
Moira Murphy, Main Street
Elaine Fagan, Garden Hill
David Byrnes, Cedarwood Grove
Josephine Carter, Castle Street
Sean Hogg, Clonlara
Michael Hynes, Lisnagry
Jim Driscoll, Ennis, formerly Castleconnell
Pat Dempsey, Wood Road
Liam O'Shea, Ballyvarra
Marie Murtagh, Montpeiler
Josie Byers (nee Reidy), Oakhampton, Newport, formerly Bog Road
Patrick O'Carroll, Ballyvarra
Patrick Mulqueen, Cardiff, Wales, formerly Wood Park
Freddy Faulkner, Dublin, formerly Knocksentry
Bill McGrath, Shannon, formerly Montpeiler
Felix Lynch, Coolbawn
Alice Glesson, Garden Hill



Sister Mary Antonia (nee Kelly), South Africa, formerly Ahane
 William Flannery, Dublin, formerly Mountshannon Road
 Anthony Kennelly, Ballyvarra
 Barra O' Cinneide, Ruan
 Teresa Webb (nee Hogg), Bournemouth, England, formerly Castleconnell
 Seamus Ryan, Knockbrack
 Edward Delaney, Dublin, formerly Cork Road, Newport
 Dan Flannery, Scanlan Park
 Jim Butler, Bunkey
 Kitty O'Reilly, Rich Hill
 Tom Kearney, Stradbally
 Sean Mackey, Ahane
 Willie McNamara, O'Briensbridge
 Margaret Cosgrave, Ballyvarra
 Claire Poole (nee Hillard), Castleconnell
 Madeline Kingsley (nee Joyce), Australia, formerly Castleconnell
 Michael Byrnes, Ballynacourty
 Bernard Keane, formerly New Line, Castleconnell.



MEEHAN FUNERAL DIRECTORS LTD.

(in its 4th generation)

Members of I.A.F.D. & N.A.F.D.

Postal Address:

Cappanahanna, Murroe, Co. Limerick. Tel: 061 378147

Funeral Homes:

**Castleconnell & Cappamore, Co. Limerick
and Newport, Co. Tipperary.**

Funeral Customs

by Bridie Hourigan

- Cover the mirror ... so the dead persons cannot see themselves.
- Turn down the chairs ... so the dead person cannot sit.
- Stop the clock ... the dead person cannot judge the time.
- Six candles are lit, one is quenched, shows a person has left the room.
- People keen over corpse.
- 4 people, same name carry coffin, 3 times round church yard.
- Put down 7 shovels of earth, before covering the grave.
- If you meet a funeral, you turn with it and walk 3 steps out of mercy.
- If you fall at a funeral, you're next to be buried.

Michael
Kelleher
Montpelier

Tel: 061 377673

*Electrical Repairs
Starters - Alternators*

**Professional
Wedding &
Event Singer
Available**

Contact
Pauline Hartigan
on
Mobile: 087 9151717

www.paulinehartigan.com
Email: pauline@paulinehartigan.com

Name Plate

The name plate on the stone of the old school house in Montpelier says Scoil an Gabhaig Scoil Naisiúnta – the National School of Gouig. The town land of Gouig is situated three miles away and was famous for its gravel and sand pits. Gouig boasted an impressive esker – a break in an otherwise flat undulating landscape. Gouig was often pronounced Guag an old Irish word for a dry break in your hand or finger. The dry esker rising from the low lying land was also similar in the physical features of Montpelier.

The name Montpelier is French in origin and reflects the influence of a strong French family who once resided in the locality before moving to Co. Offaly.

*Good Luck and Best Wishes to
"An Caisleán"*

from

Anne & Paddy Madden

9 Maple Grove

Annual Castleconnell Craft Fair



OCTOBER BANK HOLIDAY WEEKEND

SUNDAY & MONDAY

12 noon to 6.00 p.m. each day

**The Craft Fair is organised by a voluntary committee to promote
Irish Craft - All proceeds benefit local community groups**

An Caisleán - The Castleconnell, Ahane, Montpelier Annual 2011

Pat Dempsey

In March of this year following the sudden death of Pat Dempsey from a heart attack at the Mater Hospital in Dublin, more than 500 people lined the streets of Castleconnell village in tribute to their quietly spoken community hero as the hearse carrying his remains moved through the village.

The crowd held a minute's silence as the hearse paused outside the ACM Community Centre, which he had co-founded with long-time friend, John MacNamara. The



hearse then moved away with a following of cars carrying him to his final resting place in the grave yard in Killeenagarrieff.

At his graveside, Owen Gilhooly, the London based opera singer, sang *Nessun Dorma*, John MacNamara gave the graveside oration and spoke of Pat's many achievements, having been at various times over his many years of community service, a member of The Tidy Towns Committee, Drama Society, Castleconnell National School Board of Management, Community and Voluntary Forum, Leader Group Scouting Association, Castleconnell Craft Fair Committee as well as being the driving force of the Castleconnell Community Council, Castleconnell Community Employment Scheme and the ACM Community Centre. Separately, he was an active member of the PDs and was a close friend of its founder, the former Government Minister, Des O'Malley, Tim O'Malley, T.D. and Mary Harney, T.D. former Tanaiste. Pat was also instigator of the Neighbourhood Watch Scheme, the clean up of Gouig bog, village clean up days and many more community projects, too numerous to mention. Always calm and serene, he was well-known for his circle of contacts and friends and whenever community groups needed advice or help, Pat was the person to speak to.

Pat and his wife Angela, a nurse in Limerick Regional Hospital and a native of Clonakilty came to live in the parish some 35 years ago. Pat was a medical laboratory scientist with St. John's Hospital, Limerick and had just recently retired.

He grew up on a family farm at Ballymorris, Galbally, Co. Wexford with his father, Nick the well-known republican and historian, his mother Peg and his brothers, Nick, Jack, Tom and sisters, Margaret, Mary and Brid. He attended Galbally National School, St John of God Brothers, Kilroney, CBS Secondary School, Enniscorthy and studied for his medical laboratory qualification at Kevin St College and in Dublin hospitals. Later, he and Angela accompanied by their young son Tony, worked in Zambia. A devoted husband and father, he is survived by Angela and children, Tony, Kieran, Michelle and Niall and grandchildren.

The local community has been honoured by his enormous contribution to the parish over the past 30 years and is deeply saddened by his untimely death.

Ar dheis de go raibh a anam.

John MacNamara

DONAL MORRISSEY & COMPANY

ACCOUNTANTS AND BUSINESS CONSULTANTS

DÓNAL MORRISSEY FCCA

SUITE 21 WHITETHORNS
CASTLETROY, LIMERICK
TELEPHONE 061 333675
FACISIMILE 061 333677
EMAIL dgmc@eircom.net

- AUDIT and ACCOUNTING
- TAXATION : CORPORATE,
PERSONAL & PROPERTY
- INSOLVENCY, CORPORATE
RECOVERY & FINANCE
- COMPANY SECRETARIAL
- PAYROLL & HR
- FINANCIAL CONTROL

Down Memory Lane



Willie Keane, Sean Ryan, Seamus Ryan, Mary Sammon, Willie Bourke in the 1950s.



Castleconnell Girls School about 1930.



Castleconnell National School early 80's

Back Row: Donna Murphy, Ann Freeney, F. Fisher, John Bourke, John Byrnes, Judie Byrnes, Susan McDermot.

Fourth Row: David O'Keeffe, Noel O'Brien, TJ Touhy, Jim Darcy, Martin Howard, Eddie Richardson.

Third Row: Francis Coffey, Fergus Poole, Tommy Ryan, Sea O'Brien, Robbie O'Connell, Ger Poole, Tony Huson.

Second Row: John Porter, Bernard Joyce, Susan McGrath, Sea Butler, Fergus O'Callaghan, Mike O'Brien, Niall Hardiman

Front Row: Ann Shyne, Marie Collins, O'Neill, Sinead O'Sullivan, Pauline McCabe, Orla Fenton, Roisin O'Connor.



*Eileen Connolly,
Kathleen Diaz
(Butler),
Teresa Richardson
1994.*



Taking at Prospect 1968 Ellie Lyons, Cathy Berkery, Helen Berkery.



Paddy Ryan (Baker) 2001



A threshing on the farm of Sean Hynes at Newgarden in the 1940s with members of the family and neighbours.



Group outside Keane's Hotel (now Worrall's Inn) in 1938. From left - Mick Lyons, Mickey Madden, Maureen Doyle, Alice Shanahan and Davy Sheppard.



*Pat Fyfe and Margaret Skehan,
October 1974*



Eileen & Willie Joyce, Kathleen Diaz, Christy & Ann Joyce.

An Caisleán - The Castleconnell, Ahane, Montpelier Annual 2011



John Cushnahan, Jimmy Walsh, Tom Hogg.



Dromkeen 1970

Angela Ryan, Geraldine Kelleher, Margaret Skehan, Marian Ryan, Carmel McGuinness, Bridie O'Halloran.



Betty Hogg Clonlara, Julia Hogg, Babs Touhy, Meg Tucker, Ethel Skehan, Shelia Coffey, 1965.



Lena Ryan and Katie Manning. (late 1960's)



Ann McMahon Clonlara and Ethel Skehan, St.Flannan's Tce.



Nora Ryan and Timmy Murphy.

Below: Sinead Cremin, Fiona Hartigan, Eimear Cremin and Elaine Ryan (2000).



Mrs Travers and Tom Hogg.



Lisnagry "A" Team - Season 1986-87

Back Row L/R: John Keane, Pat Murray, John Carey, Eugene McVeigh, Niall Byrnes, Mike Bridgeman, Seamus Barry (Manager).

Front Row: Pat Cook, Paul Tuohy, John Hardiman, Eamonn Doyle, Pat Boyle, John Byrnes, Diarmuid O'Brien.



Eileen Nash, her mother Alice Glesson and Nora Tierney



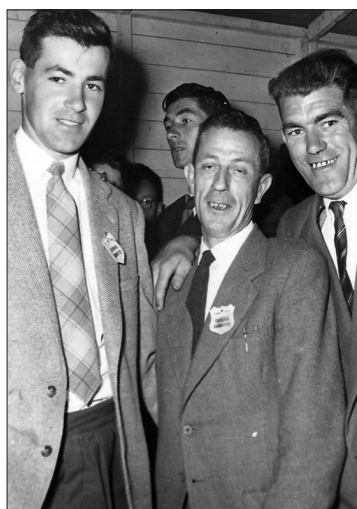
Ballyvarra Tug-O-War Team 1929

Back Row: Molly Hickey Barrington Bridge, Ned Vaughan Killeengarriff, Tom Whelan Ballyvarra, Mick Hickey Barrington's Bridge, Paddy Malley Bottomstown, Paddy Ryan-Henry Coolnahilla, Johnny Kelly Knocksentry, Joe O'Brien Ballyvarra (Trainer)

Front Row: Willie O'Brien Barrington's Bridge, John O'Brien Ballyvarra, Mick Danaher Barrington's Bridge, Mick O'Brien Knocksentry. (Heads at the back Brian Malley Bottomstown and Edmund Nealon Barrington's Bridge).



Mrs. Hurley, The Spa and Eddie Hartigan



Billy Coffey, Sean McCabe and John Joe Shyne. (1960)



Ahane National School 1954

Back Row: Willie Collins, Ned Burns, Patrick Hourigan, Joe Richards, J Peter O'Malley, Michael Hourigan, Peter Killeen, John O'Malley, Richard Hourigan, Seamus Ryan.

Middle Row: Pat Hayes, Peter Ryan, Jerry Condon, Mike Fitzgerald, Paddy Collins, Tom Burke, Jerry Coffey

Front Row: Connie Carroll, Jerry Barry, Pat Nash, John Hayes, Henry Ryan, JJ O'Malley, John Linnane, Pat Linnane.



Ahane Girls School 1924 (can anyone name them?)

An Caisleán - The Castleconnell, Ahane, Montpelier Annual 2011

Castleconnell in the 1940s

“Castleconnell was and still is one of the most beautiful scenic areas in Ireland, if not in the World”. These are the words of one of our oldest parishioners, who wishes to remain anonymous, but has such clear and wonderful memories of growing up in Castleconnell.

She was just a young girl when one lovely sunny day in 1941, she recalls the sounds and sights of the soldiers of the 12th Desmond Infantry Battalion marching into the village from Templemore. “It was like a swarm of bees, all you could see was a sea of green as the soldiers marched in unison”. She remembered thinking how hungry they must be after that long journey and of course that time, there were very few places to eat in the village. There was a garage about halfway up Old Street, which was owned by Mrs. Adams and together with her daughters Emmie and Maud, they transformed it into a lovely area where they cooked and served meals to the soldiers. The Mackey family sold milk and Mrs Keane of the Worrall’s Inn also provided food and drink for them.

Many of the beautiful old houses in Castleconnell and surrounding areas had been closed up for many years and the Military took over these houses for the duration of their stay here. ‘Shanacloon’ and ‘Coolbawn’ were both occupied and a path was made between the two houses. ‘The Rock’ was used as a hospital and four houses in ‘The Tontines’ were also filled to capacity with soldiers. ‘The Shannon Inn’ became known as ‘The Officer’s Mess’ and although Belmont House was also occupied by military personnel, Shaw’s (The Castle Oaks House Hotel) was not available as the family still lived there. The occupation of Doonass House proved to be a huge asset for the locality because the military built the footbridge which is still there and used continuously by people on both sides of the Shannon.

In the 1940s in Castleconnell as well as all around the country, business was very slow and the arrival of the military brought some semblance of prosperity to the village. Their wages were low, but they bought cigarettes and had their few pints and sometimes meals from the local businesses. They also got to know a lot of the locals and some met their life partner. When the war was over, several of the soldiers stayed in Castleconnell, married local girls and reared their families here.

Petrol was very scarce and so there were very few cars or other vehicles on the road. Rationing made life even more difficult for those who were struggling to survive during these years. Tea, flour and sugar were all rationed. Each household was given a coupon for a half ounce of tea per

person, this was a huge sacrifice for people as tea was the drink of the nation. She remembers the black bread and the jam which was made from berries and sugar provided for the task, but it all had to be accounted for. Although she recalls, there was not very much money around, the women made their own skirts, turned collars on shirts and ripped up coats to turn them and maybe sew on a little piece of velvet on the collars and cuffs and a new coat was born! Many were cut down to fit the children coming along too! "Leave it a bit big!" was the saying as it would then last for a few years before it was handed down to the next child.

After the war and the military had left, refugees from Hungary among other places came to the village and were housed in some of the houses in 'The Tontines'. The women were great knitters and they provided jumpers, cardigans and lots of other knitwear for the children of the parish.

Another event which proved to be very important for the village was the arrival of the Presentation Sisters to take over Shaw's House in Stradbally. The nuns provided some employment but also they established Rosary Hill Secondary School and some years later the Vocational School was also opened. These two schools now meant that the local children could have a secondary education without the added expense of travelling to Limerick every day.

Castleconnell was renowned for its beauty and also its fishing, which brought much needed revenue to the area. The fishermen who arrived from England and also other parts of Europe, stayed in the local hotels, ate and drank locally and paid the ghillies who landed the fish for them in case they "would dirty their plus fours". The boat builders of Castleconnell were the O'Connor family (always known as the Connors) and they had a workshop located in the village. Every February, the boats (which would have been ordered beforehand) were taken out and used by the fishermen. Then as time went on and the fishing declined, they adapted into carpentry and became well-known for their roofing skills, among others.

Looking back over these years, it is easy to see why the older people of the parish like to reminisce about their childhood and early adult years in what was not just a scenic and beautiful village but also one where kindness and compassion for others was evident. We look forward to hearing many more stories of life in Castleconnell over the first part of the 20th century from this contributor next year!

PRESENTATION SISTER BRIGID O'SHAUGHNESSY

5/8/1920 - 13/8/2011

Kildimo and Matlock, Derbyshire, England.

Margaret (Peggy) O'Shaughnessy was one of ten children born to William and Mary in Bolane, Kildimo, Co. Limerick. She often noted that she was also the last of that family to survive. Her baptism took place in the old church in what is now 'Old Kildimo'. Following her education in the old two-storey school in Kildimo, now the curtain and fabric centre, she was influenced by a neighbouring Nun, Sister Augustine Maume of Bolane House, to enter the Presentation Order in their Novitiate in South Kirkby, Yorkshire in March, 1938. Following her Final Profession in 1944, she spent her entire religious life between the convents of Castleconnell, Co. Limerick and Matlock, Derbyshire,



where in this latter house she spent the major part of her seventy years. In her two assignments, she left a mark on all who knew her by her simple dedication to duty, which was notable for the hospitality she extended to all who came her way. The presence at her funeral of so many of these persons was a tribute to this kindness and generosity.

As was customary in her early years in the convent, holidays home were not permitted and 'Auntie Peggy' (as she was known to family and friends), made her first visit home in 1948 when she stayed with her Aunt, Margaret O'Shaughnessy in Pallaskenry. Under the more relaxed rules of recent years, she enjoyed annual visits home to her brother Jack and his wife Margaret, to Ballynacarriga. During these holidays she showed her interest in her family and friends by her presence at all their family celebrations. A celebration in which she made a particular impact was the Golden Jubilee of the Duke and Duchess of Devonshire from Chatsworth House near Matlock.

In celebration of their fifty years together, they had issued an invitation to other Derbyshire couples to share in their celebration. The Duchess was a regular visitor to the Convent as a member of a Charitable Board and so the nuns thought it appropriate to suggest the addition of Sr. Brigid to the honours list as she was marking her fifty years dedicated to the Church. Her participation in the Champagne Garden Party in Chatsworth caught the attention of the major news and T.V. networks in England which featured her at the time. The Duke and Duchess would later reciprocate the invitation by attending the Jubilee celebrations in Matlock Convent. 'Peggy' was able to take her final holiday at home for her ninetieth birthday in August, 2010, which culminated with a party for family and friends at 'De Bucket'. Her final birthday in 2011 was spent in Chesterfield Royal Hospital, where she endeared herself to all the staff. Her visitors on this occasion noted her good spirits and her sharpness of mind in continuing her daily battle with the 'Mail' crossword. Such good spirit gave hope of a return to her convent, but this was not to be as she took a turn for the worst and departed this life as she had lived it, in peace and dignity on the morning of August 13, just days following her birthday. Her funeral took place following Mass in the convent chapel on August 26, which was celebrated by Fr. Gerard, SDB, her nephew and by the convent chaplains Fathers Trevor and Michael and the Parish Priest of Matlock, Fr. Bernard. Her final obsequies were marked by the joy and celebration of a life well spent and the short journey to the convent cemetery was conducted by her nephews Gerard and Billy and nieces Phyllis, Mary, Margaret, Noreen, Patsy, Annette, Peg and Anne, her grandnephews and extended family members. In this final resting place overlooking the town of Matlock, she joins her former sisters who have gone before her, the majority of whom were also her compatriots who have given their lives following the call of Nano Nagle, the Cork foundress of the Presentation Sisters.

Ní imithe uainn ach imithe rómhainn

Phyllis O'Halloran

The Story of The Missing Sausage

Maureen would never forget the day her mother abandoned her. She was just eight years old, the youngest of four children, small for her age she heard people say with big brown eyes and dark brown hair, always tied up with ribbons of various colours, usually to match her home-made dress or hand-knitted cardigan. It was a lovely summer's day, that Wednesday in May, clear blue sky and she remembers the lilac tree with its beautiful scent and the pink clematis clinging to the railings on either side of the front gate to her home ... a little cottage just a few minutes walk from the village, and down a tree-lined lane, with bluebells and primroses vying for attention along the ditches on either side. She had ambled home, along the river bank with her two friends, Mary Ryan and Helen McNamara, both of whom lived within a few minutes walk of each other. She knew instinctively there was something not quite right. Usually on Wednesdays, she was allowed to invite her two friends into the little cottage where they were treated to milky tea, home-made raspberry jam sandwiches and half a cream doughnut which her mother had brought home from town. But today, the front door was still locked and there was no sign of her beloved Mam buttering bread and cutting up the doughnuts....only an eerie silence and no answer to her insistent calling.

By six o'clock, her two brothers Noel and Tom had arrived at the door as well as her sister Kitty. They were all baffled as to where their mother had gotten to. Then, their dad arrived on his bicycle from the farm where he worked as a labourer. He was a tall, strong man who could easily be mistaken for a professional boxer. He walked with a long stride and had a very kindly disposition. He quickly surveyed the scene ... his four children all sitting on the steps of the cottage and asked "What are you all doing out here?" "Where's Mam?" her elder sister Kitty asked. "Isn't she inside?" answered her father impatiently. "No!" they all shouted in unison. All five of them looked from one to the other....each expression becoming more baffled than the other. Where can she be? Her father eventually realised he had a key himself and opened the door and they all moved inside.

Maureen stood in the doorway and surveyed the scene. There was no sign of her mother, no indication that she returned home from her trip to town. No sign of the doughnuts and bag of broken chocolate which she got for a few pence in Woolworths every Wednesday. 'The Bunty', Maureen's weekly treat was nowhere to be seen either. Even at eight years of age, she knew it was irrational to be upset because she wouldn't have the Bunty cut-out doll and clothes from the latest edition to add to her collection, stored away safely (so that Tom couldn't get at them) in a large chocolate box, which had been given to them by her father's employers at Christmas. Maureen spent many

happy hours arranging fashion shows with her Bunty paper cut-outs which she had glued to cardboard to make them stand . . . as she dressed them up, sometimes in colourful summer dresses and sometimes in beachwear (although Maureen had only ever been to the beach once in her life).

Up in her attic bedroom which she shared with Kitty, she resided in a complete world of her own. She didn't know any clothes designers but she did know film stars such as Sophia Loren and Deborah Kerr (She had found a book once belonging to her mother and it was full of photographs of these very glamorous stars). One day she thought, I will be a film star, wearing all those gorgeous clothes and have my hair in a french roll like Deborah Kerr. She came down stairs one day, all dressed up in Kitty's clothes and make up and her dad shouted at her "Go and wash that muck off your face"...it was the only time he had ever raised his voice to her and it really unnerved her so much that now she did all her day dreaming and dressing up in secret.

She would sit on her little bed and watch Kitty getting ready for a dance on Sunday nights as she carefully put on her nylons, stretching the stocking gingerly over her long legs. Her dresses were always properly ironed and she applied blue eye-shadow and black mascara on her eyes. She powdered her face and then always finished off with a bright pink lipstick. Maureen dreamed of one day sashaying down the ramp wearing some famous designer's creation, her brown hair dyed blond and in a french roll just like Deborah Kerr, and her long, beautifully stockinged legs, looking slim and elegant in a pair of red stiletto shoes, not unlike those worn by Sophia Loren in the photos she had seen of her. She had searched the house recently for that book of film stars but couldn't find it.

Now she watched as Kitty just turned twenty, tall and slim with long, black curly hair and big blue eyes like her mother, made her way around the small kitchen, opening presses and peering inside as if looking for clues... she turned to her father, threw her large eyes up to the ceiling and exclaimed "She hasn't come home! What am I going to do for my supper? Jim is collecting me at half seven to take me out in his father's car to talk about our wedding! What am I going to tell him? What about his mother? What will she say? My mother has abandoned her children! Jim's mother would never do that! She will look at me like I am a slut like my mother... Oh God! What will I say? My life is over! I'm ruined!" She dashed upstairs in despair as all the siblings watched her and before her father could say anything.

Maureen watched her father furtively from behind the coats hanging on the back of the door. Kitty's words hung in the air and the silence now enveloping them all was stifling. Noel, her eldest brother sprung into action and said "I'm going to the village to get something for the supper". He pushed past Maureen and jumped up on his father's bike. Still, no one moved.... her father had an expression of total disbelief on his face His eyes searched the perimeter of

the room, as if the answers were lurking and just waiting to be found. Tom (who was almost 2 years older than her) sat quietly by the empty grate. She left her sanctuary behind the coats and sat beside him on the little sugán chair which her father had cut down to size, especially for her.

Noel came back carrying sausages, tinned beans and a loaf of bread and set about cooking, heating and slicing. He set the table and put on the kettle for tea. The aroma of frying sausages brought Kitty, red-eyed and blotchy skinned to her place at the table as they all sat and ate in silence. Every now and then they stole a glance at each other and at their father who was sipping his tea but didn't touch his food. Tom thought about the two sausages and tasty beans sitting untouched on his father's plate as he had demolished his own portion in about two seconds flat. Missing your mother was one thing but seeing good food go to waste was a terrible shame altogether. He stole a glance at his father, who was staring into space ... could he dare ask for another sausage, or was it possible somehow to slip his fork past Maureen and spear the sausage without anyone seeing. He looked around the table, all the others were eating slowly, forks touching lips with reluctance, needing to eat but having to force it down. His father got up and moved towards the fireplace, his siblings slowly began to move away from the table except for Maureen who was still chewing some bread. Tom could contain himself no longer, he leaned over Maureen, knocking her off her stool and grabbed a sausage from his father's plate. In the ensuing confusion, he shoved the whole sausage into his mouth, pulled her up off the floor and headed out the door mumbling something about feeding Snowy, his rabbit.

It was getting late now, the table had been cleared, a small fire glowed in the grate as the evenings were still a little chilly and the homework was being completed. Tom noticed his father's plate on the sideboard, there was no sign of the second sausage. Oh God had his father eaten it ... if so he must have noticed that the other one was missing! He couldn't concentrate on his sums ... had his older sister stooped so low as to take the last sausage from her father's plate and the poor man in shock waiting for his wife to return. No, she was too afraid of putting on an ounce of weight, no fear that she would eat an extra morsel.

Noel was sitting beside the fire, having finished his homework and stealing an odd glance at his father. Tom was fairly sure that Noel hadn't eaten it either, he was the one his mother depended on most. "Go up to Conways and get me a can of milk, Noel", she'd say and he would run up straight away and sometimes he brought back some cooking apples or a few sticks of rhubarb from old Mrs. Conway. No, Noel would never eat someone else's sausage.

Tom's eyes alighted on Maureen, she was a likely candidate, she was sitting by the fire, reading last week's *Bunty* for about the tenth time, up as far as the last page which she couldn't read, because it was cut up into patterns of dresses and her precious cut out doll. He could not make sense or meaning of her obsession

with these cut out dolls, stuck carefully onto cardboard and the clothes hanging on to them with tabs as she paraded them up and down on the top of a box. He couldn't ask, but he was certain that she could be the secret sausage eater, her and her stupid paper dolls. She was the favourite being the youngest, and their mother was always giving her special treats. They thought he didn't notice, but he did. He didn't care though because he wasn't the slightest bit interested in ribbons and coloured beads, unless they were edible of course!

Was it possible that his father's hunger had gotten the better of him and he had eaten the second sausage himself? If so, he must have noticed that there was only one left on the plate. Tom gave a furtive glance at him, just as he heard Noel say gently "Dad, should we get the Guards?" His father answered so quietly that Tom had to strain to hear "No lad, I know where she is". With that the young boy was horrified to see a tear trickle down his beloved father's cheek. If he knew where she was why was he crying? Just then realisation dawned on the child, he could feel his face reddening, he was so ashamed to have caused such anguish to his dad. He jumped up and ran into his father's arms wailing "Please Dad, don't cry ... it was me! I'm the one who stole your sausage!"

The End

Professional Photography



David Gaynor

Newgarden, Lisnagry, Co. Limerick.

Telephone: **061 372186**

An Caisleán - The Castleconnell, Ahane, Montpelier Annual 2011

Castleconnell National School

As in previous years the 2010/2011 academic year has been busy, exhilarating and fruitful. As always in Castleconnell N.S., the focus has been on excellence in teaching and learning with all partners in education including Staff, Parents, Board of Management and the wider community working to ensure that our school will “be the best it can be”. The Board of Management, together with the Parents Association have continued to renovate and upgrade the building. During this year we have upgraded the boys and girls bathrooms and improved and maintained our school pitch. In addition an ambitious programme to replace all the lighting has been undertaken and this will ensure that we are using the most up to date energy saving bulbs in keeping with our ethos of environmental awareness and care.

During the course of the year our parents and pupils supported our bid to gain the fourth Green flag for travel. We organised WOW days (walk on Wednesdays) and encouraged more pupils to cycle to school. We were a successful in attaining the fourth green flag and it is hoped to raise the flag during the forthcoming school year.

In Castleconnell N.S. we endeavour to ensure that pupils experience all areas of the curriculum in a balanced manner with an emphasis on the ‘joy of learning’. To this end we embrace opportunities to become involved in co-curricular projects which ensure that the interests and needs of all our pupils are catered for. This year our pupils were fortunate to create a puppet show under the direction of local artist Siobhan Bourke. This project was funded by the Arts Office of the Limerick County Council. In addition we hosted a visit from Muriel McAuley grand-daughter of Thomas McDonagh one of the signatories of the Proclamation of independence. Our 5th class pupils completed a project on Tomas McDonagh and were invited to contribute to an exhibition in Clough Jordan the birth place of Tomas McDonagh.

Staff in Castleconnell National School always ensure that our Physical education programme is delivered in an inclusive manner. Regarding PE and sport in general the highlight of our year was our ‘Fitness Week’ which we ran in May. The aim of the week is to raise the awareness of pupils in relation to the importance and pleasure of physical activity. The activities during the week were linked to the Physical Education programme. The week began with great celebration and excitement with a monster relay where all pupils participated. Then during the course of the week, all classes had the opportunity to experience sessions in, Tang Soo Do, Tag Rugby and Zumba Dancing. Local Gardai and staff at the school led the

main event on Monday, which was a fun cycle through the streets of Castleconnell village. The excitement and activity in the village will certainly have shown many local people what a positive and enjoyable way cycling is to get around. The grand finale was a fun run through the streets of the village all pupils from Junior Infants to sixth class took to the streets to participate in the fun run. In addition to an extensive and inclusive PE programme our pupils participated in Inter-School leagues in Gaelic football, hurling, camogie and basketball. Once again the emphasis was on inclusiveness and participation. Our pupils were also afforded the opportunity to participate in several co-curricular projects including, Discover Primary Science, Feile Luimni and our school garden. The school garden project was supported this year by 'Irish seed Savers' and the incredible edibles programme both funded by government agencies.



Left: Senior Infants enjoying the Art Curriculum at Castleconnell N.S.

Below: Pupil from Castleconnell N.S. preparing for the 'Fun Cycle' through the village.



An Caisleán - The Castleconnell, Ahane, Montpelier Annual 2011



Staff from Castleconnell N.S. with Ellen O' Sullivan, Green Schools advisor from An Taisce participating in the 'cycle to work scheme'.



Pupils from Castleconnell N.S. line the streets of the village for the 'fun cycle' as part of the fitness week.



*Third class
exploring forces
and balance:
Discover Primary
Science
Sam Den Dikken,
Adrian Kelleher,
Sean Freeney,
Ellie O'Leary
Barry.*

*Tnag Soo
Doo sessions
at
Castleconnell
N.S. with
instructors,
Ray and
Nick Hogan.*



*Pupils from
5th class
Castleconnell
N.S. with
teachers Ms.
Helen Barry
and Mrs.
Majella
Sutton
participating
in the fun
run through
the village
(May 2011)*



A Poem For Nibbler

Every night I heard that wheel

Every night I heard that squeal

Nibbler you took your final breath

Now it has come to death

Nibbler I will love you forever and ever

I could not have to ask for better

Sweet dreams my little furball!

I WILL NEVER FORGET YOU NIBBLER

By Emily

Brilliant European Bronze for Sarah Lavin

Another PB and Irish Youth record for Emerald athlete

TRABZON, Turkey, Thursday 28th July 2011 - Today was a huge milestone for Sarah Lavin when she took a brilliant bronze medal in the 100m Hurdles final at the European Youth Olympic Festival, smashing her own two-day old Irish Youth record for the event. In Tuesday's semi-final, Sarah broke Patricia Naughton's 26 year-old record by nearly half a second, and today Sarah knocked another 9/100ths off her own new mark.



Acknowledgements

The Committee of “An Caislean” very much appreciate the help of so many people in the preparing and publishing of this year’s Annual.

Our thanks to:

- Those who contributed articles, features, poems and other items.
- Those who loaned us photographs – new and old.
- The local clubs and organisations for their reports and photographs of their activities during the year.
- The teachers in the schools for their help and co-operation.
- Our advertisers for their continued support.
- Castleconnell/Ahane Credit Union for their Credit Union facilities.
- Limerick Leader for the use of their pictures and their files.
- Local “Leader” correspondent, Martin Naughton for his help.
- The local shops and business houses for selling “An Caislean”.
- Mossy Kirby of Mulcair Print.

LIST OF ADVERTISERS

	Page
A	
Able Assistance.....	114
Ahane G.A.A. Club	101 & 137
B	
BCM, Business Cost Management.....	44
Bonner's Bar	108
Bourke John, Painting and Decorating	63
Bridge Engineering Services Ltd.....	18
C	
Carey Pat, Electrical Contractor	120
Castleconnell / Ahane Credit Union	71
Castleconnell Craft Fair	164
Castleconnell Karate	86
Castle Engineering Services Ltd.....	32
Chiropodist, Mary Ryan	137
Cora Collins, Interior Designer.....	148
Cosgrave Brothers (Oil Products) Ltd.	25
Croom Precision Tooling Ltd.....	130
D	
Daly's Cross, Service Station.....	148
E	
Eastway Technical Consultants Ltd.	85
Elite, Cleaning Services	53
G	
Gilhoolys, Lisnagry Post Office	153
Graduate School of Motoring, Gouig.....	130
H	
Hartigan, Pauline, Professional Singer	163
Hassett John, Domestic Appliance Repairs	112
Herbert's Bar.....	106
Herbert & Co., Solicitors	68
Hynes Donal, Plant Hire.....	146
I	
Inishlosky B&B	
Irish Harp Centre & Music School.....	125
K	
Kelleher Michael, Electrical Repairs	163
Kingfisher Lodge, Guerin's Bar	124

Mc

McDermott's Family Butcher	104
McGill's Garden Centre	97

M

Madden Paddy, Plumbing & Heating	164
Maher's Bar	25
Mary Moloney, 'Down Memory Lane' Book	112
MBS Engineering Ltd.....	125
Meehan John & Sons, Funeral Homes	162
Mike's Mowers, Lisnagry	Inside Back Cover
Mulcair Print, Commercial Printing	32
Morrissey, Donal, Accountants	166

N

Nicholas Eamonn, Family Butcher	27
---------------------------------------	----

O

O'Donnell, Peter, Photography	58
O'Neill Thomas Ltd., Animal Feeds	98
O'Sullivan's Fuel	120

P

Plant Design, Interior Landscaping Specialists	144
Professional Photography, David Gaynor	184

R

Rivergrove House B&B.....	101
Roche J.H. & Sons, Animal Feeds	Back Cover
Rosary Hill Nursing Home.....	39

S

Shannon Inn, Paddy Hickey	149
Shannon Stores, Lee's Grocery / Newsagent etc.	150
Sloan L., Castleconnell Pharmacy.....	98
Sweeney Bob, Car & Truck Dismantling etc.	Inside Front Cover

T

The Black Swan Bar	160
The Ramble Inn, Bar	28
The Velvet Rooms, Beauty Salon	132
The Village Gate, Antiques	28

V

Village Caf	155
-------------------	-----

W

Whelan Eamon, Electrical Contractor	116
Whisp's Hair Salon.....	104
Wilmot's, Child Facility & Montessori School	108